

The Monocacy MONOCLE

Keeping An Eye On Local News

A Biweekly Newspaper

April 11, 2008

Volume V, Number 1.



William George Brewer was a prominent Upcounty citizen at the turn of the twentieth century. See *Mystery History* on Page 25.



The scene of one of several devastating fires in Poolesville. Read all about it on Page 7.



It was fun, and most of us missed it. See *Mystery History* on Page 19.



This little church was part of some big changes. *Mystery History* on Page 16.

Poolesville Has Place of Honor at Papal Visit

By Rande Davis

When Pope Benedict XVI visits the Washington, D.C. area on the third anniversary of his election to the papacy, Poolesville, in a way, will have a special seat of honor. That is because David Cahoon of St. Joseph's Carpentry Shop on Budd Road in Poolesville was selected to build the papal chair, altar, and ambo (podium from which the Gospel will be read) for this very special occasion.

Last fall, Catholic University held a contest to design the liturgical furniture to be used during the Pope's public Mass at the new Nationals Stadium on Thursday, April 17 at 10:00 a.m., and St. Joseph's Carpentry was selected for the high honor last October by the Archdiocese of Washington, D.C.

John-Paul Mikolajczyk (named after Pope John Paul II) and Ryan Mullen, first year graduate students in the University's School of Architecture and Planning, won the contest which was jointly sponsored by CU and the Archdiocese of Washington. The winning design was selected from twenty-one entries.

In designing the winning entry, Mikolajczyk said he tried not to think too much about his work potentially being used by Pope Benedict. "That the pope will use our altar hasn't sunk in yet." The Mikolajczyk-Mullen team was assisted by Rachel Bailey and Victoria Engelstad, both seniors in Catholic University's undergraduate architecture program. Monsignor Barry Knestout, who headed the panel of judges, praised the design for its "delicacy and elegance." Monsignor Knestout said the design showed a "strong sense of inspirational aspects that reflect the frailty of the human condition while showing how the strength of faith assists us and supports us."

David Cahoon shared John-Paul's sense of awe while working on the furniture. The simple thought that the Pope actually will be using the furniture caused him to repeatedly

pause and contemplate its significance. "It also caused me to put in an extra special effort to make it perfect," he added. Using tiger-striped maple for all three pieces, the ten foot by four foot altar has a modern design that was cut from one-inch-thick aluminum by E-J Enterprises of Glen Burnie using a high-pressure water jet. After the four corners were mitered together by Bruce Machine and Tool in Baltimore, artist and blacksmith, Greg Campbell, owner of Black Rose Forge of Rockville, picked up the metalwork to put all the finishing touches. Coincidentally, Greg Campbell and David Cahoon attended Good Counsel High School together.

The papal chair which rises to 7'-8" has the papal seal cut into the upper back, and the clear stain causes the wood grain to reflect in varying shades. There has been no official decision as to how or where the furniture will be used after the Pope's visit. Mr. Cahoon has specialized in carpentry for religious institutions for over twenty-five years and is also the deacon at St. Mary's Catholic Church



David Cahoon stands next to the papacy chair that the Pope will use at Nationals Stadium on April 17.

in Barnesville. A philosophy graduate from Holy Cross University in Worcester, Massachusetts, he began his interest in carpentry as a part-time carpenter for NIH to help support himself while studying for a master's in physics at Catholic University. "I discovered that while I liked studying physics, I loved working in carpentry."

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The Monocacy Monocle History Special Edition

By John Clayton

As the *Monocle* begins its fifth year of publication, we have decided to feature what is without question our most popular area of interest: local history. We try to provide a variety of topics and features in our biweekly efforts, but when people tell us how much they like the *Monocle*, I have found that, invariably, the history articles get top billing. In recognition of that fact, and also out of a desire to provide these stories to those who may have missed them the first time around, and perhaps for others to enjoy once more, we present: the *Monocacy Monocle* History Special Edition.

When Rande Davis and I started

the *Monocacy Monocle*, one of the things we agreed upon (there were several) was that we wanted to run stories that concerned local history. I know that wherever I have lived, I've always been interested in, for lack of a more elegant phrase, what things around me used to be. Obviously, many other people share that curiosity. For example, I know that from the first time I gave the layout of Poolesville any thought, I wondered about all the open space near the center of town. If you read Jack's article about several damaging fires in Poolesville's history, you will understand why the town has evolved this way. We are confident you will enjoy this issue and the many historic topics covered. Perhaps, as you move about the UpCounty, you will be more liable to ask, "Why is that there? I

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Members of the Sugarloaf Riding Club circle around a refurbished pot belly stove as they celebrate the opening of newly restored barns on the Walt Pritchard Farm in Barnesville. From left to right: Ben Daughtry, Maureen O'Connell, Walt Prichard, Peter Eeg, Ann Cinque, Tom Yolken, Cathy Noble, Barbara Davidson, and Aiden Shea.



The Poolesville Relay for Life Spring Gala included a reception, dinner, dancing, a motivational guest speaker, and many, many door prizes. Pictured enjoying the gala evening are Jeffrey Deitz, Joan Dietz, Elizabeth Spricigo, Matt Hueting, Kelly Hueting, Karen Boettner and Chuck Boettner.



Guitarist and singer Doug Bell provided the entertainment during the Poolesville Relay for Life Spring Gala dinner-dance at the Doubletree Hotel in Bethesda. Joining Doug at the reception from were co-chairs Chontelle Hockenbery and Chrissie Harney and guest, Laura Davis.

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Will Randall (left) of the Frederick News-Post stands in front of their new three-story printing press with the Monocle's John Clayton during a recent tour of their new facility. The News-Post prints the Monocacy Monocle.



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Daytripper A Place Where Every Day Is Earth Day

By Frederic Rohner

Tucked away on Children's Center Road, close to the heart of Leesburg, lies the Rust Nature Sanctuary. With sixty-eight acres of marshland, meadow, and forest, the Rust Nature Sanctuary is a hidden gem in Loudoun County where lucky visitors can amble along one of its four main hiking trails, bird watch from an inconspicuous blind near the pond, or tour its century-old manor house. As part of the Audubon Naturalist Society (ANS), the main purpose of the Rust Nature Sanctuary is two-fold: conservation advocacy and environmental education. So far, staff members and volunteers at the sanctuary have sought to achieve these goals by hosting summer camps, inviting scouting groups to the property, and holding regular educational programs led by local naturalists and other experts. Soon, the Rust Nature Sanctuary hopes to increase its profile in Leesburg and Loudoun County by holding its first annual eco fair and family picnic called a Conservation

Celebration.

The Rust Nature Sanctuary is a rather young attraction, becoming part of the ANS in 2000 and, in doing so, joining a conservation organization that dates back to 1897. Named for John James Audubon, a nineteenth century naturalist who catalogued all known species of birds in America and created the aptly titled *Birds of America*, the ANS continues the spirit of conservation espoused by its name-sake. The Rust manor house and its surrounding property was donated in 2000 by the executors of Margaret Dole Rust, a committed naturalist and avid birdwatcher whose expressed wishes were to preserve the property for use by fellow conservationists and nature lovers. In 2003, the ANS purchased five more acres of marshland on the edge of the property which had been slated for development, increasing the size and further preserving the natural setting of the sanctuary.

On Sunday April 27, the Rust Nature Sanctuary will hold its first annual Conservation Celebration complete with guided hikes, educational presentations, natural arts and crafts activities, food, and live bluegrass music from the Starlingtons. In many ways, the Conservation Celebration will be the Rust Nature Sanctuary's

formal Debut into Society. Though the organization has been working steadily for more than seven years to further its mission of conservation and environmental education, many in Leesburg are unaware that there is a sixty-eight-acre nature sanctuary in their midst. Event co-organizer Karen Buchsbaum said, "Part of the reason for this event is to make connections with local businesses and citizens and just to let everyone know that we're here."

So on April 27, put together a picnic, grab the family, and make a

daytrip to the Conservation Celebration at the Rust Nature Sanctuary. Admission is free for all, so all it takes is the gas to get there. You might leave finding yourself more dedicated to conservation, or maybe you will be lucky enough to catch a glimpse of one of the two Red Shouldered Hawks who have taken up residence at the sanctuary, or perhaps you'll simply be convinced by resident naturalist and event co-organizer Julie Gurnee that "everyday should be celebrated as Earth Day."



Hard at work at the Rust Nature Sanctuary.



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Local History

An Accident at Dickerson

By Jack Toomey

Fog blanketed the tiny farming town of Dickerson, Maryland on the morning of September 24, 1942. As often happens in the fall, the warm waters of the nearby Potomac and Monocacy Rivers clashed with the cool morning air to form a fog that would burn off by 9:00 a.m. All night long, wartime freight traffic had rushed through the town on the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad main-line which connected Washington to the cities in the west. As morning came, so came the passenger trains from the west scheduled to arrive in Washington for the start of the business day. Citizens of Dickerson



Baltimore and Ohio Railroad employees and local residents were pressed into service to unload cargo from damaged box cars after the train accident. Notice the onlookers standing on top of the box cars on the far side of the tracks.

son would read in their morning paper that the German army had surrounded Stalingrad; American marines were fighting for control of Guadalcanal; and that one Dewey Brown, while walking on the streets of Frederick, had lost nine hundred dollars through a hole in his pants pocket.

The Cleveland Night Express, train 18, rushed through Point of Rocks at 7:18 a.m., two minutes ahead of schedule. The passenger train consisted of a steam locomotive, a baggage car, a baggage and mail car, two coaches, four Pullman sleeping cars, and a dining car. Its passengers included soldiers and sailors returning from leave, businessmen traveling to Washington for business, and schoolboys returning to their private schools for the fall semester. At about 7:25 a.m., the train from Cleveland stalled on the eastbound grade just west of the Dickerson train station. The problem was determined to be a failure of an air compressor. J. M. Gilbert, a flagman, was sent to the rear of the train, through fog, to warn any other eastbound trains. Of course, there were no radios on trains in those days, and all signaling was done by human or mechanical means.

In the meantime, the Ambassador, train number 20 from Detroit, passed through Point of Rocks at 7:28 a.m. The Detroit train consisted of diesel locomotives, one baggage car, three coaches, and six Pullman sleeping cars. The engineer of the train from Detroit was Raymond E. McLelland.

While the Cleveland Night Express lay stalled west of Dickerson and the Ambassador began its climb out of the Potomac Valley, a freight train with a steam locomotive and forty-three loaded cars topped the hill at Barnesville.

At 7:32 a.m., the mechanical

problem on the stalled train was fixed, the flagman was recalled, and a signal was given to start the train. A few seconds later, the train from Cleveland train was stuck in the rear by the Ambassador which was traveling approximately fifty-five miles an hour. The fuel tanks on the diesel locomotives ruptured, and fire soon engulfed the last car of the Cleveland train. At the same time, the passing freight train was derailed by falling cars, and heavy pipe from several of the cars fell on top of the passenger cars.

The first rescue unit to reach the scene was a fire engine from nearby Frederick County. The fireman in

charge, Joel Willard, found that the accident had happened in what the railroad called "Smith's Cut." Local people called it the "Orangestone Cut" presumably because of the orange tint of the rock wall. Fire was quickly spreading to the rear car of the Cleveland train which was filled with passengers. Calls went out for assistance. The governor of Maryland ordered the Office of Civil Defense, the Maryland State Police, and all state police ambulances to respond to the scene. In addition, the Montgomery County Fire Department, the Frederick County Fire Department,

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Local History

Fifty Years Ago; The Integration of the Poolesville School

By Jack Toomey

Before 1955, black students in Montgomery County attended Negro or Colored schools. Most of these schoolhouses were inferior and lacked the facilities that the white schools had. Some are still standing, but they are used for different purposes. The Quince Orchard Negro School stands on the grounds of a church on Route 28 about a mile south of Quince Orchard Road. Today, it is used to store maintenance items and lawn mowing equipment for the church. The Poolesville Negro School building is on Jerusalem Road at the intersection of Jonesville Road. Now it is the headquarters building for the Montgomery County Transportation Department's Poolesville depot. It was built in 1925 and served black students until 1949. The Boyds Negro School is located on White Ground Road in Boyds, and the building is being converted to a museum. In 2004, Bessie Corbin, a retired teacher who had taught at black schools in Rockville, was quoted in the *Washingtonian Magazine*, "We didn't have gymnasiums, we played other teams in [an] auto body shop, and we had to push the stuff to the side; balls would hit the ceiling. We couldn't play the white schools so we went to Hagerstown, Leesburg, and West Virginia, and sometimes we would get back from games at 12:30 or [1:00] in the morning."

In 1954, the Supreme Court, in its historic decision, *Brown vs. Board of Education*, ruled that segregation in the public schools was unconstitutional. In 1955, Montgomery County chose to begin integration at schools in the lower half of the county. Several PTA groups in Chevy Chase and Kensington voted to oppose integration, but schools opened without incident. Montgomery County waited until 1956 to integrate the schools in the upper section of the county. Before schools were opened for the fall semester in 1956, high school students in the Poolesville school district were given the choice of remaining at Lincoln Junior High and Carver High Schools in Rockville or attending the Poolesville High School. The Poolesville Elementary School had

not yet been built, and students from grades one through twelve all attended the same school. Black elementary school students continued to attend the Edmund Taylor School in Boyds due to overcrowding in the elementary grades at Poolesville. Fourteen black students, all in grades seven through nine, elected to attend the Poolesville High School while sixty other black students continued to attend Lincoln Junior High and Carver High Schools in Rockville.

On September 4, 1956, school opened for the fall semester. Things went well in Montgomery County except in Poolesville. That morning, the fourteen black students began to arrive by school bus or car. A crowd of about two hundred adults and students stood outside the school trying to encourage white students not to attend class. Another crowd of students also loitered outside the main entrance to the school attracted by the crowd of protesters. An infamous photo of townspeople holding picket signs with vicious racial overtones was printed in the *Washington newspapers* and can still be found on the internet. When the bell rang to signal the start of the school day, about half of the student body tried to enter the school, but the crowd of adults tried to block the doors. Howard Lyles, who lived in Jerusalem at the time, had been taken to school by his parents. In a recent interview, he recalled that "people were walking back and forth," but he was able to enter the school because Coach Robert Moen opened a side door for him and said, "C'mon in." A contingent of about twenty Montgomery County police officers, who had been stationed nearby because of hints of trouble, moved in and forced the crowd away from school property and then stood guard around the school grounds. The black students were able to enter the school building without further incident. An avowed segregationist, Everett Severe, who lived in Kensington, tried to inflame the crowd and promised that the school would not be integrated. He led some of the adults to a nearby house where a meeting was held. It was later determined that Severe was an avowed segregationist and had attended pro-segregation rallies in Virginia and had attempted to disrupt schools in other jurisdictions. The school day passed in relative peace, and school was dismissed an hour early, in part so the police could

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Local History

Some Historic Poolesville Fires

By Jack Toomey

Only a few long-time residents of Poolesville remember what the old business section of town looked like. Collectors of post cards and those fortunate to have old photos are able to see that the center of commerce was concentrated around the intersection of present-day Fisher Avenue and Route 109. Further down Fisher Avenue, where shopping centers stand today, stood farms and stately homes—but how many readers are aware that the town was nearly destroyed during four disastrous fires that happened over fifty years ago?

In August of 1923, a fire started in the middle of the night. Most of the commercial district was destroyed. Mrs. Helen Pumphrey, who was fifteen at the time, recalled in a 2006 interview that she had been asleep in her bedroom when she was awakened by noises in the street. Mrs. Pumphrey said, "There was all of this commotion, and I looked out my window and the whole sky

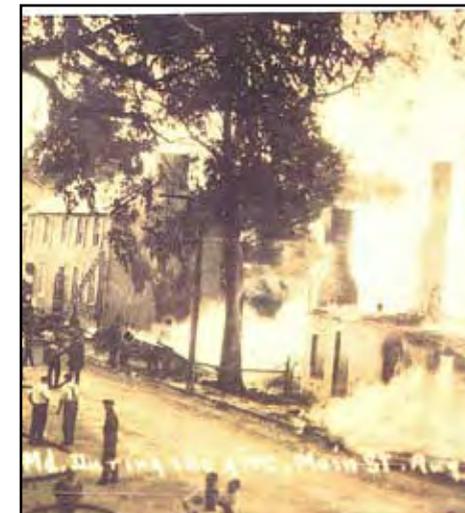
was red." She dressed and raced up the street where she helped others remove goods from the stores. "We formed a bucket brigade, but there was just no water," she recalled. Most of the townspeople were trying to help, but Hoskinson's Store, Spurriers Clothing and Furniture Store, Fishers Lemonade and Ice Cream, Wootton's Store, and the post office were destroyed. Many other shops were damaged including the barber shop, the drug store, and some private residences.

After the fire of 1923, townspeople began a fundraising drive to build a cistern in the center of town to supply water in case of another large fire; however, when the Poolesville Bank failed during the first years of the Great Depression, all of the money was lost.

In 1931, a fire broke out at the Kohlhoss & Sons Garage in the middle of town. On March 25, 1931, Joseph Butler, an employee, came to work early and intended to light the stove. When he struck a match, a fragment flew across the room and landed in a vat of gasoline that was used to clean tools and machinery. The vat of gasoline exploded and set fire to the building and to Mr. Butler's clothing. Butler ran out of

the building with his clothing on fire and dived into a barrel of rainwater. Butler was injured, but since he was wearing two pairs of trousers, he was protected from life-threatening injuries. The building and its contents, including several automobiles, were destroyed in the blaze, and only the fast action of the Gaithersburg and Rockville fire departments prevented the fire from spreading to other buildings. It was said that responding firemen could see the smoke from at least six miles away. Ironically, one of the cars that was destroyed had belonged to Lawrence Clagett, a former Montgomery County police officer, who had been killed in a fire at his mother's Poolesville home just a few weeks before.

In September of 1935, another disastrous fire broke out in the middle of the night. The post office had been moved to the Norris house after the destruction of 1923. The fire was believed to have started there. Mr. and Mrs. Harry White were asleep in the old building when the fire started. Newspaper accounts of the fire relate that Mrs. Emma Kohlhoss and Mrs. Dora Hall sounded the alarm and helped rescue the Whites. Mr. Charles Kohlhoss ran to



The Poolesville fire of 1923.

the scene of the fire but was severely burned when the door of the post office collapsed on him. The post office was destroyed, but an even greater disaster was averted when the Rockville and Gaithersburg Fire Departments arrived and managed to save the house of Mrs. Fannie Williams who had a priceless collection of antiques in her home. A carload of firemen responding from Silver Spring overturned on the still-sharp curve on Route 107 just outside of Poolesville.

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Local History

Tragedy at Bucklodge Station

By Jack Toomey

Willis Windsor was proud of his truck. He had purchased a 1913 Ford roadster when it was five years old and eventually put a 1921 Ford truck body onto it. Willis used it to haul things for friends, deliver furniture, and sometimes drive his pals around the countryside. He had even put chairs in the back and installed curtains to provide his passengers with some privacy.

Windsor had been a motorman on a streetcar in Washington for three years before he moved to Montgomery County. He worked on various construction jobs and did farm work wherever he could find it. He lived with his aunt at Thompson's Corner which was a small village north of Boyds. As one would expect, Willis was popular because he owned a vehicle and enjoyed the freedom that the machine gave him.

As was the custom of the time, most towns in Montgomery and Frederick Counties fielded baseball teams. Boyds, Germantown, Dawsonville, Poolesville, Adamstown, and Rockville all had teams, and they would play before large crowds on the local ball grounds. These games became a popular social event, and spectators could catch up on the latest gossip. Lemonade would be served from large vats, and cakes and sandwiches were available. Because most ball-games were played on weekends, fans had all week to talk about upcoming games, and some people made fairly long treks to the ballparks while others could easily walk.

On June 12, 1921, Willis and some friends decided to attend the ballgame at Boyds. He picked up Clagget Hawkins and Dick Nicholson and then drove to Bucklodge where Joe Carlin and Earl Springer joined them. At the ball grounds, the young men became separated as they moved through the crowd talking with other friends. After a while, Nicholson asked Willis to drive him to his aunt's home in Bucklodge which was then a small community surrounding the Baltimore and Ohio railroad tracks and present-day Bucklodge Road. Hawkins and Nicholson went along, and a fifteen-year-old, Charlie

Cooley, asked to join them. When they arrived at the farmhouse, Nicholson found that no one was home. Everyone got back in the truck and they drove back towards the ballgame. In those days, Bucklodge Road crossed the railroad tracks at grade level. Now, there is an underpass, and Bucklodge Road passes beneath the railroad. As Windsor approached the crossing, he slowed down but did not stop. As they approached Wade's Store, a small general store and depot at the crossing, Charlie Cooley heard a roaring sound and saw a fast-moving passenger train approaching. He jumped off the truck and landed on the roadbed. Just as he jumped, the train, a Baltimore and Ohio express train to Cumberland, struck the truck and carried it at least a half mile down the tracks. The conductor and engineer stopped the train and jumped off and found the wreckage of the truck pinned under the engine. Nicholson and Clagget were dead, and Windsor was badly injured. It was decided to put Windsor in the baggage car and head for Brunswick. When the train arrived at Brunswick, an ambulance was waiting, and Windsor was taken to the hospital at Frederick.

The Maryland State Police sent an investigator to the scene, but it seems that most of the investigation was done by the railroad. Surprisingly, there were several witnesses to the accident. Charlie Kohlhoss, a mechanic and part-time mail handler from Poolesville, William Roberts, a mechanic from Beallsville, and Paul and Karl Brunner from Dawsonville were all approaching the crossing from the opposite direction, coming home from the ballgame, and saw the accident. Lewis Hamilton, of Bucklodge, who had just put a five-year-old boy on a train to Germantown, and a man named Simms who handled milk jugs on the platform at Wade's Store were also there.

Willis Windsor stayed in the hospital for over two months, and when he was released, he needed a wheelchair to move about; later he used crutches. In 1923, he sued the railroad. The points of contention were whether the warning bell at the crossing was working and whether the engineer had blown his whistle as required. About twelve witnesses were called at the trial in Rockville, and they differed over what they had heard and seen.

After a number of appeals, the

-Continued on Page 16.



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Local News

Local Woman Awarded Medal For Bravery

By Jack Toomey

The Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce recently awarded a longtime Poolesville resident with a medal for bravery. Each year, the organization recognizes police officers and firefighters who have distinguished themselves in the performance of their duties. It is believed to be one of the only times that a civilian employee of the police department has been recognized for such an award.

On July 12, 2007, Program Specialist Maureen Walter, an unarmed civilian employee of the department, was at the Famous Pawnbrokers on East Gude Drive while conducting an investigation. Suddenly, two men with guns came into the store and ordered customers and employees onto the floor. One of the robbers fired a shot into the

ceiling. Ms. Walter, while lying on the floor, concealed her cell phone under her body and was able to dial 911. Using a low tone of voice, she told a communications call taker that an armed robbery was in progress, and dispatchers alerted officers who were patrolling in the area. Officers Kwang Suh and Barton Hudson arrived on the scene as the holdup men were running out the front door. One suspect surrendered immediately, and the other was arrested after a foot chase. Both officers received awards for valor.

Ms. Walter, who has served the Montgomery County Police Department for almost forty years, received the Bronze Medal for Valor.

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Remembrance

Joseph A. Muldoon, Jr.

Longtime Poolesville resident, Joseph A. Muldoon, Jr., died March 16 of prostate cancer at his home in Poolesville. Big Joe, as he was affectionately called by his friends, was 76. His vocation was law and finance, but he was probably better known for his avocation. Joe was one of the area's leading horsemen. He was born in Waltham, Massachusetts and lived most of his life in the Washington area. He was a graduate of Gonzaga College High School, Georgetown University School of Foreign Service, and Georgetown Law School. In 1968, he founded the law firm, Sloane & Muldoon (now Muldoon Murphy & Aguggia), which specialized in licensing regulatory matters in the savings and loan industry.

Joe had a lifelong passion for horses. Traveling on Route 109 near Poolesville, you could not miss noticing on both sides of the road the many fields where his and his boarders' polo ponies grazed. If you were lucky, some days you would catch a glimpse of his exercise riders

ponying three or four horses around a large, oval grass track.

In the early 1970s, Joe bought the Potomac Polo Club and moved it to his farm in Poolesville, Gone Away Farm. He introduced polo, the sport of kings, to thousands of people who attended the many Sunday meets he hosted at this farm. Many of these events were fundraisers for a variety of local and national charities. Joe and his sons and daughter were internationally-ranked polo players. He brought the best players and ponies from around the world to his Poolesville farm, and the weekly crowds loved it.

In some ways, the horse world is very small and collegial. The common love of horses binds together people from all walks of life, professions, ages, and layers of society. If you were into horses, you knew Big Joe, and he probably knew you. This was very evident at his Memorial Mass at Our Lady of Mercy Church in Potomac, Maryland on March 25. The church was filled to capacity, and there were extra seats in the aisles. At the end of the mass, his son Joseph and his grandson Michael brought tears to many eyes and gentle laughs from those in the pews with many fond and bitter-

sweet remembrances of life with their father and grandfather. He was well loved and respected by his family, friends, and the community. As his casket was brought down the aisle by the many pallbearers, Larry Pitts, Potomac Hunt Huntsman, blew a long, slow wavering blast on his horn "Going Home," which all hunters recognize as the signal for the end of the day—a fitting sendoff for a man whose love of horses was a monumental part of his life.

He is survived by his wife Alyse B. Muldoon of Poolesville; three children, Joseph Muldoon, Charles Muldoon, and Mary Louise Muldoon of Poolesville; two stepchildren Lanah Hamilton of Poolesville and Tristan Hamilton of Loma Linda, California; two sisters, Mary Elizabeth Muldoon of Rockville and Patsy M. Murphy of Atlanta, Georgia; and grandson, Michael Muldoon.

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Police Blotter

By Jack Toomey

Present

March 12 Robbery Three male students at Clarksburg High School were arrested and charged with robbery. It is alleged by police that they approached a fifteen-year-old student in the lobby of the school and forcibly took his wallet and shoes.

March 12 Residential burglary A home, located in the 12800 block of Clarks Crossing Drive, Clarksburg, was burglarized. Police said that the homeowner came home to find intruders inside the house, but they fled before police arrived.

March 29 Sexual assault Eric David Rose of Germantown was arrested and charged with sexually assaulting three women. Police said that the women, one from Dickerson, another from Montgomery Village, and the third from Gaithersburg, on separate occasions accepted alcoholic beverages from Rose and afterwards were raped.

Local News

Commissioners

Approve FY09 Budget

By Rande Davis

The Poolesville Town Commission approved the new FY09 Budget which has scheduled a .4% surplus of \$10,770 for the \$2,689,032 budget proposal.

This budget includes a reduction in the assessed tax rate from the FY08 tax rate of \$0.18 per \$100 to the proposed \$0.16 per \$100 for FY09. The Unrestricted Reserve Fund (URF) of \$1,072,631 with this budget is estimated to approximate four months of General Fund and Water/Wastewater operating expenses.

The final budget removed the proposed purchase through FY11 of a street sweeper for \$75,000. This decision removed a \$20,000 line item in FY09 which would have been part of the set aside toward such a purchase. The new budget instead moved \$17,000 for potential improvements on Spurrier Avenue and allowed for two additional street cleanings (\$3,000

March 31 Bank Robbery BB&T Bank, 9815 Main Street, Damascus A man approached a teller and implied that he had a weapon and he escaped with cash. Police said that he was dressed in a black uniform and was described as a black male, 6-3 to 6-5, with a heavy build and a mustache.

Past

April 7, 1905 Montgomery County authorities were searching for a young Poolesville girl who was wanted for forgery. The grand jury indicted her on a charge of taking a check from her father and increasing the value of the check from \$2.81 to \$20.81 and then cashing it at a store in Rockville.

April 9, 1921 A headless skeleton was found in a ravine on the grounds of the Georgetown Preparatory School north of Bethesda. The discovery was made by a man walking on Rockville Pike. Police thought that the body might be that of a marine who had been missing for months.

-Continued on Page 20.

for both). While no final decision as to specifics as to what they will schedule for Spurrier Avenue has been reached, an amendment can be submitted later once they have finalized a decision concerning the sidewalks and speed control on Spurrier Avenue.

Town Manager Wade Yost has shown the final estimated costs for the new town hall of \$1,571,741 as follows: Land purchase (\$155,000); engineering and design (\$246,732), total construction (\$1,079,000), construction oversight (\$30,000); equipment and new furnishings (\$60,000). Improvements to Fyfe Road, which leads to the town hall, have been removed as a town hall expense since it has long been budgeted for improvement with or without construction of a new town hall.

Funds to pay for the town hall project come from \$1,181,741 which have been set aside for over ten years (five separate commissions) and earmarked for the town hall, \$150,000 sale of the 1908 bank, Maryland State grant (\$150,000), and \$190,000 from impact fees.

In other business, the commis-

-Continued on Page 25.

Mystery History

Gateposts to a Mysterious Past

By Rande Davis

Traveling north on Route 109 from Poolesville, you may have noticed the grand white gateposts that stand rigidly at attention, eerily guarding a mysterious history of the grounds behind them. Except for a few outbuildings, there is little evidence today to tell passersby that one man's dream to bring a West Point to the area existed on this property a long time ago.

If you traveled back in time to April of 1910, you may have come upon Sydney Johnston Lodge standing at those gates, dreaming of turning the property into a military academy. At that particular moment, right where the current ranch home sits, stood a three-story colonial-styled home that had been a girls' academy, and had then become a boarding house. Mr. Lodge, a graduate of Fork Union Military Academy and Richmond University, was visiting his mother on Easter break from his instructor position at the New York Military Academy (NYMA) at Cornwall-on-the-Hudson, New York. NYMA sits at the foothills of Storm King Mountain, which is home to the United States Military Academy at West Point.

If Mr. Lodge had inquired from locals at the time, they would have told him that the property had been, since 1874, a highly-respected, all-girls academy called Briarley Hall Seminary for Young Ladies and Little Girls, and originally called Briarley Hall Female Academy. It seems that even in 1874, the marketing mantra for a successful enterprise was still "location, location, and location." You see, while not mentioning curriculum at

all, the original advertisements for the female academy emphasized that "the boarding and day school for girls was one half mile from Poolesville and only four miles from Sellman's Station (near the current Dickerson station) on the Metropolitan Railroad and that a stage passes by the school four times daily."

The twelve-acre site, which originally was part of Chiswell's Inheritance in Poolesville, remained an all-girls academy until sometime past 1906. Along with classical education, the school catalog emphasized that the "girls are taught to act from a high sense of honor and duty, and to love all that is beautiful and right. Religious instruction, without sect or creed, is constantly given, as it is this alone [that] gives learning its true value."

It took Mr. Lodge two years to accomplish his dream of opening and operating a military school on the site. The school opened in 1912, and subsequent school catalogs describe the school's sixty-by-forty-foot gymnasium, which is attached to the north side of the current home. In its first year, the military academy had thirty-three cadets (seventeen from Maryland) enrolled. In 1915, Charles W. Woodward joined the faculty, but later he became a lawyer and eventually the Chief Judge of the Montgomery County Circuit Court. It is for him that Rockville's Woodward High School was named.

The students' uniforms were exact replicas of those worn by West Point cadets and were made of the same gray cloth, trimmed with black braid with an Academy emblem on the cap and collar. For cadets to participate in any of the school's sports, which included baseball, swimming, football, tennis, basketball, and track, they had to maintain an average grade of eighty percent in their class work and

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Big Board

Phantom Players Present Jungle Book

The JPMS Phantom Players are presenting *Jungle Book*. The shows are April 18 and 19 at 7:00 p.m. at John Poole Middle School. Tickets, \$5.00 for adults and \$3.00 for students, will go on sale April 14. If you need more info please call 301-349-5651 or 386-453-9007.

Jonah – A VeggieTales Movie

For thousands of years, people have heard the story of a man who was eaten by a whale and lived to tell about it, but never in all that time has it been told by vegetables—until now! Get ready as Bob the Tomato, Larry the Cucumber, and the rest of the Veggies set sail on a whale of an adventure in Big Idea's first full-length, 3-D animated feature film. Filled with music, laughs, and some of the silliest adventurers ever to be swallowed whole, this is the story of *Jonah and the Whale* as you've never seen it before—a story where we learn that one of the best gifts you can give—or get—is a second chance. Clarksburg United Methodist Church invites the community to see *Jonah – A VeggieTales Movie* on Friday night, April 18, 2008 at 6:30 p.m. Bring your children (or come alone), grab some popcorn, and enjoy the show on our new audiovisual system.

NAACP Youth Leadership Forum

The NAACP Youth Leadership Forum will be held from Friday, April 25 through Sunday, April 27 at Quince Orchard High School. There will be no cost to students or families. Contact JPMS for more information.

Poolesville Elementary School Spring Book Fair

The PES Spring Book Fair will be held from April 21 through April 25. The hours from Monday through Thursday are 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Friday hours are 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., and there will be additional hours on Wednesday evening (April 23) from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Family night is on Thursday, April 24 from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. For more information, call 301-349-2142.

PHS Post Prom Committee Seeking Help

With the party theme of Passport to the World on tap, the PHS Post Prom committee is seeking help for the May 16 to 17 event. Contributions of any size are welcome: cash, prizes, an ad in their program, merchandise,

food, or by sponsoring an activity. The students really appreciate such things as passes to the movies, gift cards to restaurants, stores, malls, tickets to sporting events, and Ipods, digital cameras, and DVD players are highly sought prizes. Remember your gift can not just provide a wonderful time for graduates and guests, but helps to provide a safe and secure venue for this big event in their lives.

How can you help Poolesville Relay for Life?

Just a reminder as we get closer to the June 7 Relay for Life event at the PHS sports field that there are many ways to help. You may make a donation directly by going to the website at www.poolesvillereley.org or purchase a Luminaria candle in honor of someone fighting cancer or in remembrance of someone who has lost his or her battle with cancer. There will be another family movie night at Poolesville Elementary School on April 18 from 7:15 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. The \$5.00 per person entry fee includes all the popcorn you can eat, drink, and a selection of candy. You can also review the list of fundraising teams on their site and contact one to help out. Be sure to mark your calendar now to attend the Relay for Life event this June.

Be Your Own Winemaker at Sugarloaf Mountain Vineyard Create your own signature wine blends at Sugarloaf Mountain Vineyard. Wineries blend wines to associate different virtues of an individual wine into a resulting wine having more broad and satisfying appeal. Using selected varietals and working with our professional staff, you'll create custom wine blends. We'll even let you take a sample home and, if it's really good, incorporate your ideas into our 2007 vintage. This special event is on Saturday, April 12 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. The cost is \$30.00 per person and \$20.00 for Sugarloaf Mountain Vineyard Case Club Members. Space is limited and reservations are required. Call 301-605-0130 to reserve your spot.

The Hudsucker Proxy (1994)

Tim Robbins, Jennifer Jason Leigh, and Paul Newman star in the Coen Brothers' visually stunning satire at the Weinberg Center for the Arts on April 12 at 7:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. Tickets are \$6.00 for adults and \$4.00 for students and seniors. For more information, visit www.weinbergcenter.org or call 301-600-2828.

Yankee Doodle Dandee (1942)

James Cagney stars in this Oscar-winning salute to multi-talented music man George M. Cohan showing

at the Weinberg Center for the Arts on April 13 at 2:00 p.m. Tickets are \$6.00 for adults and \$4.00 for students and seniors. For more information, visit www.weinbergcenter.org or call 301-600-2828.

Countryside Artisans Spring Studio Tour

The annual Countryside Artisans Tour is scheduled from April 11 to April 13 from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Sugarloaf Mountain Vineyard's handcrafted wines will be part of the 2008 countryside Artisans Spring Studio Tour. Sugarloaf joins twelve local artists who open their studios to offer an array of handcrafted items for sale. In addition to SMV wine, hand-blown glass, prints and paintings, yarn, jewelry, furniture, garden art, and mosaics are featured on the tour. For more information about the entire tour, go to www.countrysideartisans.com for a brochure and a map.

Art Barn Presents *Godspell*

The Arts Barn, the City of Gaithersburg's premier cultural arts facility, presents a Kensington Arts Theatre 2nd Stage production of *Godspell*, with words and music by Stephen Schwartz, running April 4 through April 20, 2008. Shows will be held Fridays and Saturdays at 8:00 p.m. and Sundays at 2:00 p.m. at the Arts Barn, 311 Kent Square Road, Gaithersburg. Admission is \$16.00, \$14.00 for City of Gaithersburg residents. The setting for this lively production by award winning KAT is a Metro Red Line Car stranded between stations. It promises to be a fun twist for the classic songs by Stephen Schwartz (including "Day by Day," "Bless the Lord," "All Good Gifts," and "Prepare Ye") and the parables from St. Matthew's Gospel. See *Godspell* before it returns to Broadway this summer. The show is suitable for ages ten and older. For more information and tickets call 301-258-6394 or visit online at www.gaithersburgmd.gov/artsbarn.

Rummage Sale

Get ready for another terrific Rummage Sale at St. Peter's! Every year they get bigger and better, and with the new Parish Hall there is lots more room to display all the treasures. New this spring are more organized clothing displays due to the professional clothing racks the church has acquired. If you missed the book sale last month, you can shop even more books at the rummage sale—and don't forget all the outdoor stuff for gardening and sports. Peruse the tents for a great selection of furniture. There is something for everyone! Donations

are welcome and can be dropped off between April 13 and 22. Sale dates are Thursday, April 24 from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00

p.m., Friday, April 25 from 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., and Saturday, April 26 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Rural GOP Women Announce First Event of Campaign Season

The Rural Republican Women's Club will be hosting John McCain's Campaign Chairman for Maryland, James Shalleck, on April 21, at 10:30 a.m. in Dickerson. Mr. Shalleck will discuss John McCain and his campaign in Maryland. Guests are welcome and may RSVP to Audrey Prichard at 301-972-8476.

A Conservation Celebration! An Audubon Family Picnic... Naturally

The Rust Nature Sanctuary in Leesburg, Virginia is hosting a family picnic and eco-fair—more information is in this issue's Daytripper column. Bring a picnic and enjoy nature crafts and games, guided hikes, live bluegrass featuring the Starlingtons, and much more! Entrance is free. For more information, visit www.audubonnaturalist.org or call 703-669-0000. The address in Leesburg is 802 Children's Center Road. They are also looking for volunteers of all ages to assist with this event. If you are interested in helping, please contact Julie at julieg@audubonnaturalist.org

Kentlands Mansion Hosts 22nd Annual Gaithersburg Fine Arts Association Juried Exhibit

The City of Gaithersburg presents the 22nd annual juried multimedia art exhibition of the Gaithersburg Fine Arts Association (GFAA) at Kentlands Mansion, 320 Kent Square Road in Gaithersburg, through May 18, 2008. An artists' reception, open to the public, will be held on Monday, April 21 from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. The exhibit at the mansion features an extensive collection of works by some of the area's finest visual artists in a variety of media, and many of the works are for sale at modest prices. Please note that all images are copyrighted by the artists. For more information and viewing appointments, please call Gallery Director Natalya Parris at 301-258-6394 or visit the city online at www.gaithersburgmd.gov. For more information on the GFAA please contact Linda Griffin at 301-869-8969.

"Big Board" Continued From Page 12.

Golf Outing to Help Raise Funds for new Carroll Manor Fire Station

Carroll Manor Fire Company is kicking off its 2008 fundraising campaign with the First Annual Golf Tournament on Friday, May 16 at Glade Valley Golf Club to benefit the new Fire Station Fund Drive. One hundred percent of all proceeds from the tournament will go toward the building costs, and all donations are fully tax deductible. The CMFC is seeking sponsors and players for the golf tournament. There are platinum, gold, and silver sponsorships available as well as hole, Tee-box, Beverage Station, and Cart sponsorships. Sponsorship fees start at \$25. The cost to play in the tournament is \$75.00. You can contact Laurie Courley-Benfield at 301-834-7207 or Charles Elgin, Jr. at 301-874-0874 or visit their website at

Youth Sports

There's New Grass on the Field

By Jeff Stuart

Going into the new baseball season, optimism abounds, both at Clarksburg and Poolesville High Schools.

Since last season, Clarksburg High School's Wim's baseball field has had a makeover. A new irrigation system has been installed, there is a new "ballfield" dirt mix in the infield, courtesy of the Clarksburg High School Booster Club, and there will be literally "new grass on the field," courtesy of Clarksburg Baseball, who aerated and seeded the whole field. The Coyotes return to that field this spring full of optimism, after finishing 9-10 in their inaugural season. "We had a good first season last year," said Head Coach Will Gant. "Our players gained valuable experience. With no graduates from last year's team, we are in a unique position of not having to replace anyone. Last year, when we played well defensively, we gave ourselves a chance to win games, but we were inconsistent in the field."

One thing was consistent about last year's team. The Coyotes could hit. They had several players whose offensive statistics placed them on the leader board throughout the year. "We are led by seniors Matt Civetti and Zack Skellchock," said Gant. Civetti, a centerfielder, batted .356 with four home runs and 22 RBI at

www.carrollmanorfire.com. The \$3.5 million project is anticipated to have its groundbreaking ceremony the fall of 2008.

Save the Date for Second Annual HMD Kitchen & Garden Tour

Hold Saturday, May 10 open for the Second Annual Historic Medley District's Kitchen and Garden Tour. The tour will feature beautiful homes in Montgomery County where past and present mingle in charming, innovative styles. Other attractions include the John Poole House, Seneca Schoolhouse Museum, Sugarloaf Mountain, and White's Ferry. The purpose of HMD is the preservation of historic structures that contribute to the character of the area. Be sure to hold the date and watch for more information in future issues of the Monocle. You may also visit www.historicmedley.org.

Clarksburg. Matt was voted All Montgomery County 1A/2A/3A in 2007. He also batted .348 with five home runs for Post 295 this summer. Matt will be playing collegiate baseball at Limestone College in South Carolina next year. Skellchock, a right-handed pitcher/shortstop, led the team last year in innings pitched and wins, posting a 4-3 record. Zack also batted .452 and scored twenty-four runs.

There were many offensive stars. Junior Josh Creighton, a catcher, batted .448 with eight doubles and one home run. Junior Cody Martin, a first baseman/third baseman/outfielder, batted .286 with two home runs and 20 RBI. And the number 9 hitter, Andrew Veith, a sophomore second baseman/shortstop, batted .425 and scored fourteen runs.

"We are returning three experienced pitchers," said Coach Gant. In addition to Skellchock, their top pitcher, junior right-hander Brendan Milligan and sophomore right-hander Jeff Gatling return. Milligan posted a 3.03 ERA as a pitcher and batted .373 and was an outfielder/third baseman. Gatling was 3-1 as a pitcher in his freshman year, recording twenty-three strikeouts, Jeff also plays third and first base when necessary.

"This year our expectation, and goal, is to play better defensively," said Gant.

Opening day for the Coyotes was March 31 against visiting Churchill.

At Poolesville High School, Head

-Continued on Page 19.



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History Photo Gallery



The 1907 Poolesville High School varsity football team.



Many of Poolesville's streets are named after these men. As group, they were the "Groundhogs," the name they gave themselves in the pitch (cards) league. Back row: Will Hempstone, Ben White, Julius Hall, Joe Willard. Front row: John Poole, Isaac Fyffe, Dr. Walling, Jerome Offutt, Lige White, Doc Hersperger, and Ray Bodmer.

This is the Wooton Elgin Store at the corner of Elgin Road and Fisher Avenue in Poolesville in 1905.



Poolesville, Md. A.E. Corner Mdian St. These buildings predate the current Poolesville Barbershop and the Jamison Real Estate parking lot.



These three Monocacy Lions Club members are packing cigarettes to be sent to troops overseas during World War II. Can you name the three?



Do you recognize this as the parking lot of the Poolesville Presbyterian Church?

Welcome to downtown Poolesville in 1909, prior to the fires that devastated the town.



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Things to Do

April 10 to 12
PHS Midnight Players Presents
Footloose
Poolesville High School auditorium
Thursday to Saturday: 7:30 p.m.
Saturday matinee: 2:00 p.m.
\$8.00 per adult; \$5.00 per student

April 10 to 12, 18, 19
CHS Drama Club Presents
Disney's *High School Musical*
Clarksburg High School auditorium
Tickets available at the door
7:00 p.m.
Matinee April 19 at 1:00 p.m.

April 11
Income Tax—Free Assistance
Poolesville Library
10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

April 11 to 13
Countryside Artisan Tour
Up County
10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
For info: www.countrysideartisans.com

April 12
Sportsman Raffle
Adamstown Fire Station
Benefit Carroll Manor Fire Company
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Doors open: 4:00 p.m.
To purchase tickets: 301-831-8362

Sugarloaf Mountain Vineyards
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\$30.00
1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Cugini's Restaurant
Musical Entertainment Night
Presenting: Some Assembly Required
Featuring Poolesville's Brian Gross
9:00 p.m. to midnight

The Hudsucker Proxy (1994)
Weinberg Center for the Arts
7:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m.

April 13
Yankee Doodle Dandee (1942)
Weinberg Center for the Arts
2:00 p.m.

April 17
Twosomes
Stories, finger play, music
Poolesville Library, 10:30 am

April 17
Jonah: A VeggieTales Movie
Clarksburg United Methodist Church
6:30 p.m.

April 18 and 19
JPMS Phantom Players
Presents *Jungle Book*
JPMS at 7:00 p.m.

April 19
Rummage Sale
Poolesville Presbyterian Church
Toys, furniture, more
8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Cugini's Restaurant
Music Entertainment Night
Featuring: Off the Wall Band
\$3.00 cover
9:00 p.m. to midnight

April 20
Celebration of Earth Day
B-CC Izaak Walton League
West Willard Rd., Poolesville
Free – For information: 301-972-8942
Noon to 4:00 p.m.

Dan Ketan Quartet
Gospel Music
Barnesville Baptist Church
6:00 p.m.

April 21 to 25
PES Spring Book Fair
Monday – Thursday: 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Friday: 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
Evening hours Wednesday & Thursday

April 23
Conversation Club
Poolesville Library
3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

April 24
Three- to six-year-olds
Stories, finger play, music
Poolesville Library
10:30 a.m.

April 24 to 26
Spring Rummage Sale
St. Peter's Episcopal Church
Thursday: 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Friday: 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Saturday: 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

High School Varsity Home Games

Poolesville High School Varsity Home Games

Baseball:
4/16 – Bethesda-Chevy Chase @ 3:30 p.m.

Softball
4/17 – Bethesda-Chevy Chase @ 3:30 p.m.

Lacrosse Boys 4/15 – Rockville @ 7:00 p.m. 4/21 – Seneca Valley @ 7:00 p.m. 4/25 – Bethesda-Chevy Chase @ 7:00 p.m.	Lacrosse Girls 4/11 – Norwood @ 7:00 p.m. 4/17 – Einstein @ 7:00 p.m.
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Volleyball
4/15 – Rockville Boys @ 5:15 p.m., Coed @ 7:00 p.m.
4/18 – Walter Johnson Coed @ 5:15 p.m., Boys @ 7:00 p.m.

Clarksburg High School Varsity Home Games

Baseball
4/12 – Rockville @ 3:30 p.m.
4/14 – Watkins Mill @ 3:30 p.m.
4/18 – Seneca Valley @ 3:30 P.M.
4/23 – Bethesda-Chevy Chase @ 3:30 p.m.
4/25 – Einstein @ 3:30 p.m.

Softball
4/11 – Einstein @ 3:30 p.m.
4/21 – Churchill @ 1:30 p.m.
4/23 – Wheaton @ 3:30 p.m.

Lacrosse Boys 4/11 – Wheaton @ 7:00 p.m. 4/17 – Norwood @ 7:00 p.m. 4/21 – Paint Branch @ 7:00 p.m. 4/25 – Magruder @ 7:00 p.m.	Lacrosse Girls 4/15 – Einstein @ 7:00 p.m. 4/23 – Damascus @ 7:00 p.m.
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*-"Fifty Years Ago" Continued From
Page 6.*

escort school buses and patrol the neighborhood around the school. Only forty-six percent of registered students attended school that day.

That night, a boisterous crowd gathered at the Poolesville Town Hall. Everett Severe again spoke and demanded that the school system allow the Poolesville parents a public hearing in Rockville. Other speakers criticized the police for helping enforce the order of the courts. After the public meeting, many of the men who were present adjourned to a farm on Route 107 to hold a rally. A plainclothes police officer was able to infiltrate the group and later reported back to his superiors. On September 5, police doubled their numbers at the school, and there were no disturbances, but attendance remained low.

On the evening of September 7, a crowd of about sixty adults gathered in Rockville and began assembling on Jefferson Street near the courthouse. The police, who had been forewarned, had assembled a group of fifty county and state police officers. When the crowd started to march towards the headquarters of the school board, Police

D.C. was the promoter of a traveling entertainment program that was a festival of music, recreation, and inspiration. For three full days, two performances a day, Mr. Radcliffe would bring to town his Chautauqua, an assembly for education and entertainment by lectures, concerts, et cetera. Adult season ticket holders at the cost of two dollars would have a pass to attend all the afternoon and evening performances. For those choosing to be more selective, each performance went for seventy-five cents.

Each afternoon performance would start off with a musical concert or one-act play and would be capped by a thoughtful and inspiring lecture presented by different professors and PhDs. Typically, the music part of the performance would be a male quartet singing and playing instruments or a comedy novelty act. Each performance ended with serious lectures with titles such as "That Something Within," "Broken Barrier," or "The End of the Rainbow." These inspirational speakers were the forbearers of today's Tony Robbins and Zig Zigler.

The evening performance was

Chief James McAuliffe announced, "There will be no demonstrations in Rockville tonight" and threatened to arrest anyone who caused trouble. Some racist signs were hung on the school board building, and most of the crowd dispersed and returned to the same farm on Route 107 where they were kept under surveillance by detectives.

Because the attendance rate at the Poolesville School remained low, Superintendent of Schools Dr. Forbes Norris sent a letter to parents quoting Maryland's compulsory school attendance law which carried the threat of fines and jail. As the week went on, more parents sent their children back to school and the attendance rate increased. By September 10, ninety percent of the students were attending school. On the evening of September 17, over two hundred Poolesville citizens attended a school board meeting in Rockville. An attorney representing several families, who had continued to withhold their children from school, challenged the board members on Maryland's compulsory attendance law. Eventually, the attendance rate increased and, by the third week of September, almost all students were attending class.

Today, children of many races and ethnic backgrounds attend the Poolesville schools. Has it been only fifty years since those tumultuous days of 1956?

This article was originally published on the fiftieth anniversary of the integration of the Poolesville School.

*"Tragedy at Bucklodge" Continued
From Page 8.*

Years later, an attorney, who had represented Willis Windsor in court, was riding on a train from West Virginia to Rockville. As the train passed through the rolling countryside of upper Montgomery County, he told his fellow passengers about the accident there in 1921 and about Charlie Cooley's leap that saved his life. A man sitting in the seat behind the attorney was listening intently to the story. As the train passed through Bucklodge, the man leaned over the seat and said, "I am Charlie Cooley." The attorney had not recognized the survivor of the wreck and the son of Montgomery County's first police chief.

Mystery History

The Days When the Big Tent Came to Poolesville

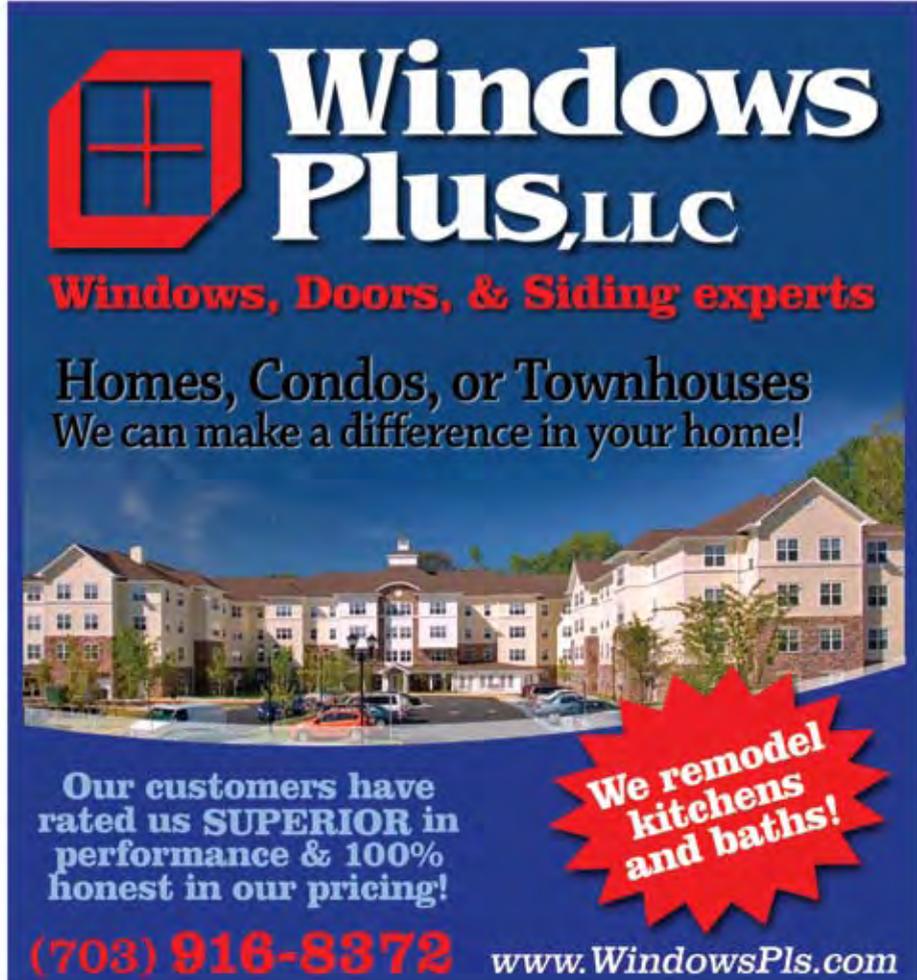
By Rande Davis

There must be something about the land where the Poolesville Baptist Church is located. How else do you explain the land's history as a cultural, musical, and educational center that goes back even to the days when the only thing on the property was grass. Sound confusing? Let us explain.

If you drive down West Willard past the church today, you wouldn't be surprised to hear the sounds of music—singing and band—in the air, nor would you be surprised to hear an inspiring lecture booming from the church doors and windows. If you drove down the same road in the 1930s in the month of July, all you would have heard would have been the sounds of silence. In early summer, however, the only thing in the air would have been excitement. Why? The Chautauqua was coming to town, or to be more specific, that's when the Radcliffe Chautauqua came to Poolesville.

W. H. Radcliffe of Washington,

-Continued on Page 18.



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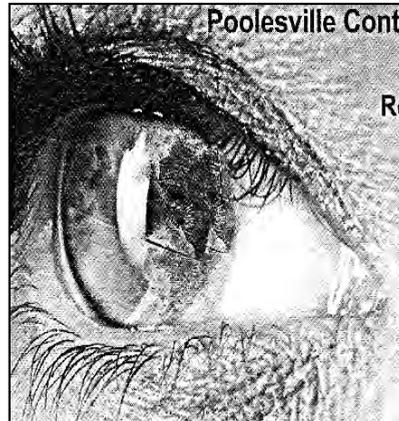
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Tidbits from the Past

Curious Incidents of Aprils Past

By Jack Toomey

April 1910 The lawsuit of James Armour of Cecil County, against Zachariah M. Waters, Montgomery County, resulted in a verdict in favor of Mr. Waters. It was claimed by Mr. Armour that the cattle he had purchased were infected with tuberculosis and \$2000 had been sought.

April 1910 The funeral of Doctor Edward Wootton, who died at his home at Poolesville, was held at the family residence with about three hundred people attending.

April 1911 Professor and Mrs. Willis Moore returned to their home near Rockville after spending the winter in Washington.

April 1911 Miss Katherine Walling, of Poolesville, returned from Florida, where she spent the winter months, as was her annual custom.

April 1913 The Rev. Frank B. Cowell, who had been the pastor of the Barnesville Baptist Church, ac-

cepted a similar position at the church in Providence, Rhode Island.

April 1914 Miss Lydia Alomoney of Rockville had recovered from a spell of typhoid fever and was able to take short walks.

April 1915 Miss Clydia Marie Carlin, daughter of Mrs. and Mrs. J. Walter Carlin of Boyds, and Crawford Wade Young of Buck Lodge, were married by the Rev. George Harrington, pastor of St. Mary's Catholic Church at Barnesville.

April 1916 Blenheim, the home of Mrs. Mollie Jones, near Poolesville, was the scene of the marriage of Miss Elizabeth Darnell Jones, daughter of Mrs. Jones, and William Smoot, of Raccoon Ford, Virginia. The ceremony was performed by Rev. Augustine Smith, rector of St. Peter's Episcopal Church, Poolesville.

April 1916 Among the marriages of the week was that of Miss Ethel M. Grubb, daughter of Mrs. Margaratta Grubb, of Beallsville, and Howard W. Spurrier, the president of the First National Bank of Poolesville. The Rev. B. V. Switzer officiated.

April 1934 The ninth and tenth grade girls of the Poolesville School

"Radcliffe Chatauqua" Continued From Page 16.

similar to the afternoon performance except that the serious lecture part was held first, and the entertainment selection would end the night. Guess they wanted to make sure there were no walkouts on such topics as "The Better Tomorrow" or the "Dawn of Civilization."

The Chatauqua was held in huge tents, and the musical selections would come from cello soloists, selections on a xylophone, and featured their leading artist on "the beautiful silver-toned Swiss hand bells." Poolesville's Dots Elgin fondly remembers her favorite part

was the dancers arrayed in fabulous costumes doing the can-can or slipping into the Charleston in their flapper outfits. The Plymouth Male Quartet sang in blended voices, played instruments, and brought the crowd to its feet with impersonations.

After three days and nights, the Chatauqua would slip out of town and move elsewhere to find an eager crowd thirsting for inspiration and entertainment. The field would go empty, the grass would begin to overcome its trampled state, the people of Poolesville would have memories of the thrill of the pretty dancing girls, the handsome men, and the drama of the very special four-act plays.



A Radcliffe Chatauqua performer playing the lyre.



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Mystery History

The Sweet Taste of Liberty

By Rande Davis

The orange and green sign along the side of Hughes Road near Poolesville announces: "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. Cute road sign or not, little exists today to give a clue to the dramatic history of this area.

Yet over a century 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 were to become the patriarchs and trustees of the area that would come to be called Sugarland Forest.

For you see, 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, relatives, and their descendants.

At the heart of the community, on this site 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, probably named after one of the trustees, William Taylor.

Not far from this 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 everyday 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 by the men in the community, not by hired carpenters.

The deed to the property shows that William Taylor purchased it in 1876 from 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 1870s. It was a one-room building heated only by a woodstove 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 with white families for room and board.

Still living in the community today



Skip Etheridge and his son Zachery are direct descendants of one of Sugarland Forest's original trustees, William Taylor

is one of Mr. Taylor's direct descendants, James "Skip" Etheridge. His cousin, Nathaniel Mason, who is 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. It is generally agreed that it comes from the sugar maples that were in the area at the time—a lthough it was often stated by the men living in the community during the earlier part of the 1900s that the name came from the fact that their women were so beautiful and sweet.

Poolesville Presbyterian Church

17800 Elgin Rd., Poolesville, MD 20837
Circa 1847

--- April Calendar ---

Wednesdays, April 9 & 23

7-8pm – English Conversation Club

Saturday, April 12

3-6pm – Lord's Table Soup Kitchen

Saturday, April 19

8:30am-2pm – Rummage Sale
Clothing, Books, Toys, Furniture & more!

Saturdays, April 26 & May 3

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*Child & Adult Classes: 9:45-10:45am *Worship: 11am-12nn

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"Baseball Preview" Continued From Page 13.

Coach Ted Gardiner is looking forward to another opening day. After compiling eight wins last year, their most since 2002, the Falcons return some very strong players. "We had a great season last year," said the coach. "This year, I feel that our players are more relaxed and having a lot of fun. That transfers onto the field, and we should play very well."

Senior Pat Zapata (3A/2A/1A All Division First Team) returns to the team after suffering a torn ACL in the fall. "Pat is an outstanding leader and will do a great job for us this spring," said the coach.

The Falcons return three starting pitchers from last year's team, Senior Tommy Hughes (1.86 ERA), Senior Dave Johnson (2.10 ERA), and Junior Nick Loftus (36 strikeouts in 21 innings pitched). Senior Cory Wyne returns this year as a reliever (7:3 strike to ball ratio). Offensively, Tommy Hughes and Nick Loftus will continue to lead the way. Hughes batted .481 with thirteen RBIs and Loftus batted .463 with eleven RBIs. Junior Kevin McNealy, called up from the JV

late last season, batted .333. "He will help an already potent offense," said Coach Gardiner. "I like our returning players' strengths and am impressed with some new players that we have. Juniors Dane Hanscom and Daniel Young, Sophomore Drew Karlin, and Freshman Max Heldman should be solid on defense. Junior Tim Dalton will contribute with his relief pitching and his great bat," he added.

"One game on our schedule stands out for us," said Coach Gardiner. "We play Brunswick late in the season (at Brunswick on April 22) and look forward to continuing the friendly rivalry that Brunswick and Poolesville have long had in all sports." He expects the team to do well in the 3A/2A/1A division and is looking forward to their move to the 1A West Region.

Opening day for the Falcons was March 31 at Watkins Mill. The home opener was April 2, against Richard Montgomery.

The Falcons and Coyotes meet at Clarksburg on May 2 and again at Poolesville on May 7.

"Poolesville Fires" Continued From Page 7.

In February 1953, another fire nearly destroyed the downtown section. Mrs. Frances Le , who lived on Elmer School Road, awoke during the night with labor pains. She called her husband who was at work, and he raced home to pick her up and take her to Montgomery General Hospital. They didn't get to the hospital right away. Edgar said, "As we neared Poolesville, I could smell a fire...then I saw flames shooting from the building on the main corner." He stopped his car at his sister-in-law's house, who lived two doors from the building on fire, and telephoned the fire department. As Mrs. Le sat in the car, about to give birth, "there was a roar and the whole flaming structure seemed to explode," said Mr. Le . The Le s were credited with saving many lives and the property of storekeepers and residents. Daniel Breeden and George Hilliard moved furniture and clothing from their house which was threatened by flames, and they moved two trucks from behind the buildings that were on fire. Shortly after the Le s' arrival at the hospital, Mrs. Le gave birth to a

baby boy. The Upper Montgomery County Volunteer Fire Department responded to the scene, and, to their dismay, they found that an eight thousand gallon cistern that had been built after the 1935 fire was empty, and they had to string hoses to pump water from a farm pond a mile from town. The Odd Fellows Hall, which housed a barber shop on the first floor, and a vacant building that had housed the Elgin Brothers Drug Store were destroyed, and the Poolesville Plumbing and Heating Company building was damaged.

It has been over fifty years since a significant fire has affected the Poolesville commercial district. A professional fire fighting force, improved fire codes, and inspections have prevented other fires. Today, the vacant spaces and parking lots near the corner of Fisher Avenue and Route 109 remain as stark reminders of the disastrous fires that happened there in the early part of the twentieth century.

"Police Blotter " Continued From Page 11.

April 12, 1966 Easter Monday erupted into rioting when disorderly youths poured out of Glen Echo Amusement Park in Glen Echo and began stoning cars and buses. Crowds also damaged stores at the Glen Echo Shopping Center.

April 13, 1910 Sheriff Martz of Frederick County received word that an insane patient had escaped from Springfield State Hospital and was believed to be in the city. The only description was that it was an Irishman with a missing thumb on his left hand.

April 13, 1930 Police were on the track of two men who had murdered a Prohibition agent in Washington, D.C. It was thought that the suspects had fled into Maryland and Montgomery authorities were given the descriptions of the men and their automobile. Every member of the police department was pressed into service in a gigantic dragnet thrown around the city.



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"Accident at Dickerson" Continued
From Page 5.

and the Montgomery County Police sent all available members to the scene. A hospital train and powerful spotlights were sent to the scene from Washington. Of course, the main line to Washington was blocked, and wartime traffic had to be diverted to other rail lines.

Bill Broschart was a Montgomery County police officer who happened to live next door to the Gaithersburg fire station. He was waiting for his ride to the police station when he heard the fire whistle blow. As was expected of him, he walked over to the firehouse and learned that there had been a train wreck in Dickerson. Broschart climbed into a fire truck, and when enough volunteers had arrived at the station, he began driving towards Dickerson. When he arrived at the scene, he found the access blocked by cars of the curious and other rescue trucks from both Montgomery and Frederick Counties. Finally, Broschart was able to get the fire truck near the wreck. Eventually, a police car was maneuvered to near the scene and it became a sort of command post for rescue personnel. Broschart ended up spending a week at the scene, sleeping in his police car or in a tent, and going into Dickerson for food when necessary.

Eventually, fourteen bodies were recovered. All had been passengers or crewmen in the last car of the Cleveland train. The dead included flagman Gilbert, a Pullman porter, a fifteen-year-old boy returning to military school, and the rest were residents of Cleveland and Pittsburgh. Among the injured was James M. Straub, the president of the Fort Pitt Bridge Company of Pittsburgh. Mr. Straub was saved by another passenger who dragged him away from the flaming wreckage. The Rev. James Bifield, pastor of St. Mary's Church in Barnesville, came to the scene and administered the last rites of the Catholic Church to a fatally injured man who was trapped under the wreckage. While Father Bifield prayed over the man, flames crept towards both of them. Photos taken at the time show large crowds of local residents gathered on the hills overlooking the accident site and also assisting in clearing the wreckage.

By Friday, September 25, States Attorney Ben G. Wilkinson had convened hearings in Rockville into the matter. The majority of the questioning was directed at the actions of the engineer of the Ambassador, Raymond McClelland. McClelland testified that he had passed a green signal (a signal on the railroad that permits trains to proceed) two miles from the accident scene. He then stated

that he came upon a yellow signal (a signal that orders caution). He applied the brakes and saw the flares that had been placed on the track. He then saw a red signal (a stop signal) just as the train passed it and said that the smoke from the burning flares obscured the signal. He also testified that he followed the Cleveland train "every other day" under the same conditions.

Investigators determined that the accident occurred 3,177 feet west of the Dickerson station. They also determined that the Ambassador had passed over the Monocacy River bridge at sixty-six miles an hour and at the point of impact was traveling fifty-five miles an hour. The maximum speed limit in that area was seventy miles an hour for passenger trains. Investigators also tested the signals and found them to be in good working order. Further interviews with Engineer McClelland revealed his admission that he had neglected to see the yellow signal and had proceeded at normal speeds until he saw the burning flares and then he had attempted to brake, but his speed was too great to avoid a collision.

On November 4, 1942, the Interstate Commerce Commission released its

report. They ruled that the accident was caused by the failure of the stalled train to give adequate flag protection to the rear and the failure of Engineer McClelland to operate his train in accordance with signal indications. In other words, they ruled that McClelland had passed both a yellow and red signal without using due care.

At the conclusion of the inquiry conducted by States Attorney Wilkinson, evidence was presented to the grand jury sitting at Rockville. McClelland was indicted on thirteen counts of manslaughter (apparently because one body was never identified). He stood trial in Rockville and was convicted on all counts. On December 4, 1942, he was sentenced to two and half years in prison by Judges Stedman Prescott and Charles Woodward. At the time of sentencing, Judge Woodward said, "...if a man violates the rules of a railroad and kills someone, he is guilty of manslaughter...you have killed a number of people and destroyed millions of dollars of property...this sentence can only be a warning to engineers all over the country. Yours is a sad case, but you have brought a lot of sadness to others."

Today, several commuter trains, Amtrak's Capitol Limited, and countless freight trains rush through this section of track every day. Few passengers, if any, notice that the walls of Smith's Cut still show the scars of the tragedy that

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**"History Special Issue" Continued
From Page 1**

wonder what that used to be?" Drop us a line; maybe we can find out.

Our history here, as measured by our arrival from distant continents, is, at its oldest, a little over three hundred years old, and the dominant event of local history is, of course, the Civil War. The war was a long time ago, but measured in generations, this is not so long ago at all. I have never knowingly spoken to someone with firsthand knowledge of the Civil War, or of slavery, but most of us have probably spoken to someone that has—long ago, but not so long ago.

We also don't mean to ignore our predecessors, the native American Indians that lived here for thousands of years before us. We aren't able to come up with the same types of stories for those eras, but some of our stories have involved artifacts and other remnants of those that lived here before us. The riverbanks and forests of the Potomac still hold arrowheads and pottery fragments, and even evidence of encampments and meeting places, for those who are able to detect them after so many years of overgrowth, farming, and development. We really haven't been here for that long.

As you read these stories from

the first four years of the *Monocle*, you will note that they are the work of two writers. Jack Toomey is a retired Montgomery County police officer who combs the archives of the public library for story ideas, as well as items for his popular "Police Blotter: Past and Present" feature. Jack's love of history shows in his writing, but what also shows is his investigator's nose for getting to the facts of a story and presenting not only what happened, but how it looked and felt when it happened. He succeeds in bringing some of that nineteenth or early twentieth century flavor into his stories. We hope he isn't running out of stories; it wouldn't be the *Monocle* without them—or, for that matter, without him.

The other writer is the *Monocle* co-founder, Rande Davis, whose historical contribution, the "Mystery History" feature takes something that all of us see day in and day out, and asks a question that perhaps all of us had in mind. How did that get there? Why is that there? What is the story behind that? Rande presents that story and solves the mystery of the history. We know you will enjoy this selection of reprised Mystery History articles, many of which are from our first year of publication, 2004.

We are also in different ways indebted to the people and organizations

that help keep our history alive. A short and insubstantial list would include the Historic Medley District, the Clarksburg Historical Society, and local historians, Arthur Virts in Boyds, William Wims in Clarksburg, and. Mary Ann Kephart, whose history of White's Ferry was printed in the *Monocle* a few years ago. We are also and particularly forever

indebted to Dots Elgin of Poolesville, whose scrapbooks and memories have helped keep the history of events big and small alive. You may have similar materials in your home, and you may know someone who is also a unique witness to our heritage. Don't let that get away; find a way to preserve it. It's well worth the effort.

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Remembrance

Rodger Lee Ferrell

By Jack Toomey

Rodger Lee Ferrell of Poolesville died on February 23. He was sixty-one years old.

Mr. Ferrell was born in Williamson, West Virginia and joined the United States Navy in 1964. Chief Rodger Ferrell was a submariner and served on the USS Lewis and Clark, USS L. Mendel Rivers, and the USS James K. Polk. He served on the USS Halsey and did two tours of duty in Vietnam aboard this ship. He also was stationed in Sicily during his career. During the height of the Cold War, while in the submarine service, Chief Ferrell was involved in some of the most dangerous assignments of the time.

In 1986, upon his retirement from naval service, Mr. Ferrell moved his family to Poolesville. He became active in the Upper Montgomery County Athletic Club baseball program and was later appointed as Commissioner of Umpires. He also served on the board of directors. Many would describe Mr. Ferrell's umpiring style as gruff or unbending, but those who knew him best realized that beneath the brusque exterior was a caring and compassionate heart. It was not uncommon for Umpire Ferrell to halt a game, especially in the lower age groups, to instruct a player on better tactics and skills. Fellow umpire Dennis Ferguson said, "Rodger loved the kids, he was very good natured."

During the late 1990s, Mr. Ferrell began coaching and was successful in coaching an all-star team that competed with organizations from other parts of

the state. Not only did he coach several teams, but he also served as a mentor to a group of boys after they moved on to high school and college. Michael Maloney, a friend and coach, said in a eulogy at Mr. Ferrell's funeral, "Look at the twenty young men he coached exclusively for five years and then continued to track them and care for them for five more. In them, you see Rodger, in them, you see caring and fine young men that are better for having known and worked with him and for accepting his guidance and love. He taught them [baseball], but he taught them so much more, how to give unto others, how to care about people and to treat them right." Gene Lowery, the president of UMAC, told the *Monocle*, "Rodger was a great asset to UMAC. He was dedicated to his job, and was a good guy who cared about the kids."

A dedicated family man, Mr. Ferrell is remembered by his loving family as someone who regretted missing seeing his oldest children grow up because he was away at sea most of the time. However, one of his joys was being able to see his two youngest children, Dawn and Tessa, grow up and being part of their lives after his retirement from naval service. He surprised his wife, Jonnie, with trips and vacations that they were not able to experience while he was in the navy. One of his more simple pleasures was to sit out front of his Poolesville home regaling the neighbors and family members with stories about his baseball teams and travels around the world.

Mr. Ferrell was employed as a logistics analyst with Tracor General Systems, General Physics Systems, and Perot Systems after his retirement from the navy. In his spare time, he operated Rodger's Cards and Collectibles, a base-

ball card shop, and worked in the home improvement field.

He leaves his wife of forty-two years, Jonnie, and his father, Robert E. Lee Ferrell. He is also survived by a son, Robert J. Ferrell of Bremerton, Washington, three daughters, Cora J. Helms of Goose Creek, South Carolina, Dawn M. Ramos and her husband Juan of Frederick, and Tessa L. Ferrell of Frederick. He is also survived by a brother, a sister,

and six grandchildren. Mr. Ferrell was interred at Arlington National Cemetery.

Rodger Lee Ferrell, a veteran who served his country for more than twenty years, devoted husband, father, and grandfather, umpire, coach, and mentor, will be sorely missed by his family and the community that he served with devotion and pride.

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Mystery History

The Brewer Farm: The Mysteries at Rosehill

By Rande Davis

Travelers and commuters have been watching the development of the Woodstock Equestrian Park on Route 28 north of Beallsville and probably have wondered about the cluster of stone and framed buildings abandoned just above the entrance on the eastern section of the new park.

Soon horses hooves will kick up the dust and the view of those structures will become a bit obscured from those of us traversing Route 28. Yet the imaginative historian might sense the spirits of George Washington, J.E.B. Stuart, and Confederate General Jubal Early galloping their horses along the ridgeline. Those historic legends have since departed, and today, the only occupants of the buildings are the pigeons that perch in a door opening of the crib barn on the property of our mystery history focus: the Brewer Farm.

The Brewer Farm is a section of the original 1,102-acre land grant known

as Woodstock Manor. It is that parcel of 583 acres of land that was left after 519 acres of Woodstock Manor were sold to George Washington on January 13, 1794. Maddeningly for today's consumer, the property sold for \$12 to \$15 per acre.

Dr. William Brewer, who held a medical degree from the University of Pennsylvania Medical School, was from a German family originally from Anne Arundel County. He and his wife, Mary Chiswell, had fifteen children.

William George Brewer (pictured) married Ida White on Mary 16, 1872 and moved into the farmhouse (pictured) shortly after their marriage. The colonial-style home, no longer there, perched directly in front of the cluster of buildings visible from Route 28. While their family had the house built for their marriage, it was not completed until sometime after the wedding. In fact, when the couple returned from their wedding trip, the Brewer family held the reception in the foundation of the partially-constructed house.

It is easy to imagine that festive gala today since the reception would have been just in front of the stone buildings that are there now.

In the 1860s, Charles Johnson along with Harriet Carr and her four children

were slaves on the Brewer Farm. Some report that log structures, originally located directly south of the manager's house, served as slave quarters. On the other hand, the descendants always referred to this tenant house as "the quarters" which lends credence to the theory that it was actually the slave quarters. The mystery as to which theory is right will have to continue for now. By 1870, Mary Johnson and her five children were servants on the farm. Interestingly, Mary's husband, Charles, left the farm much earlier to fight in the Civil War.

The most intriguing structures still standing are two Seneca sandstone buildings. The larger one is referred to as the tenant (manager's) house and the other is a springhouse. The construction date is estimated to be around 1861. These structures are excellent examples of our agricultural heritage and of Seneca stone construction. In the 1700s and 1800s, the Potomac River in Montgomery County near the mouth of the Seneca Creek was rich with sandstone and marble. The Seneca Quarry was located on the C&O Canal near the town of Seneca. This building was used to keep perishables cold by running spring water through a built-in tub.

The largest remaining structure is the decaying crib-barn, a wooden-framed structure that had the hay hoisted into the loft above, while placing animals or goods in the cribs below.

Walter and Audrey Prichard, Dickerson residents and the last family to properly care for the home, lived in the farmhouse in the late 1960s and raised their four children there. Back then, the crib barn made a terrific basketball court according to Mrs. Prichard. Mrs. Prichard also reports uncovering many beautiful rose bushes in the yard which is understandable since the property at one time is reported to have been called Rosehill. After the Prichards moved out, the subsequent occupants did not take particularly good care of the home, and it decayed and was eventually torn down.

Many members of the Brewer family are buried in Monocacy Cemetery in Beallsville just a half mile south of the site. Getting a closer look at the Brewer Farm will become easier since soon the county will officially open the park and you will have a chance to explore the site for yourself.

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"Local News" Continued From
Page 11.

sioners also voted to approve a grant of \$2,500 to a private program that assists recovering soldiers at Walter Reed Medical Center. The program sponsors a special fishing and picnic day for the troops with a day in the country this coming May.

In the area of miscellaneous items, the town manager announced that James Pernise has been hired as a part-time contract employee as a code enforcement officer. Tom Yeatts reported that there is an opening on the Community and Economic

Development committee for the town resident volunteer position. Link Hoewing urged that the Parks Board finalize its recommendation to the commissioners regarding a possible skateboard park. Commissioner James Brown presented a proposed design for a new town information sign for Whalen Commons that would provide identification to the town hall and provide space for public announcements of events. The proposed sign standing at 8' 10" is within the maximum height allowance already designated for the private sector.

Mystery History

Toasting Poolesville's Peter's Forest

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 welcome sight would have been the tavern on the north side. Since it is presently 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 origi-

nally 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 representative 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.)

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. 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



The present-day sign at Peter's Forest.

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." (Hmm, sure sounds like some more Mystery

-Continued on Page 27.



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"Papal Visit" Continued From Page 1.

try." That his mother had nicknamed him Woody while growing up proved to be quite prophetic.

St. Joseph's Carpentry Shop has its own 1922 sawmill on Budd Road, and they literally start many projects by cutting their own lumber. St. Joseph's Carpentry Shop has designed and manufactured pews, doors, altars, decorative woodwork, and other furniture for churches including work at St. John's at Lafayette Square across from the White House, which has become the de facto church of presidents. Locally, he built pews for Poolesville Baptist Church and the al-

tar rail at St. Peter's Episcopal Church.

Assisting Mr. Cahoon on the project were Carlos Hernandez and Francis Mackie. In considering this opportunity, Deacon Dave, who drives a car with the bumper sticker, "I work for a Jewish Carpenter," mused that as far as his carpentry vocation goes, "It is all downhill from here."



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"Toasting Poolesville Peter Forest"
Continued From Page 26.

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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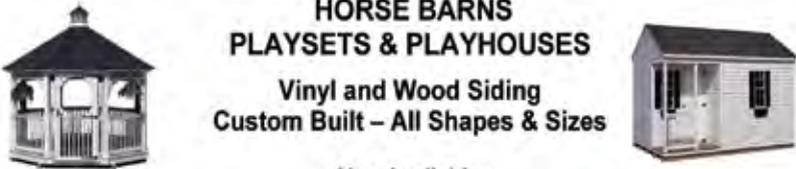
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