The Emmitsburg REGIONAL DISPATCH

Vol. III, No 1

Gaining Strength Through Each Other

January, 1995

Tower Truck Arrives

Fire service in the Emmitsburg area has been enhanced with the addition of the new tower truck recently purchased by the Vigilant Hose Company. Chief Frank Davis and several company members went to Wisconsin to bring the truck home.

Davis said, "It was a very long trip but it was well worth the time to be trained on the proper use and maintenance of our new apparatus. In time, I'm sure the entire community will see the benefits of our recent purchase."

Members who made the trip to Wisconsin were Frank Davis, Tim Clarke, Herb Click, Jr., Terry Myers, John Glass, Andy Eiker, Charles Stouter, Steve Hollinger, Steve Valentine, Larry Glass, and Carl White.



"Tower 6" parked in front of the new addition to the fire station.

A Dispatch Photo

Town Officials Ponder What Has Been and What Can Be

Janus, the mythological god, looked back into the old year and forward into the new. He sets the example for town officials who were asked what each thought were the most important accomplishments for the town in 1994, and what they thought would be important events and concerns for Emmitsburg in 1995.

Commissioner Gingell felt that the work on up-grading the water plant and plans to remedy problems in the water distribution lines was significant. Looking into 1995 he saw the need for better control of truck traffic through the town and the elimination of noise. He is opposed to state and federal mandates that are not fully funded. He feels

the town should "forget about them." Gingell also said he would do his best to pass some type of truck or motor vehicle noise ordinance that the town can enforce.

Mayor Carr reflected on what happened in Emmitsburg during 1994: "Perhaps the most significant event in Emmitsburg during 1994 was the increasing participation and interest shown by our citizens in regard to municipal responsibilities of the town as well as in numerous community events which occurred throughout the year. While citizen participation can always be greater, we felt that in 1994 more people became involved in trying to make Emmitsburg a (Please see OFFICALS on page 2)

Let The Process Begin

Citizens Express Their Concerns at Local Hearing

On Dec. 13, the Frederick County Planning and Zoning Commission held a public hearing to listen to citizens' concerns about the staff draft of the Comprehensive Plan. Over 100 people attending the meeting at the Emmitsburg Elementary School heard speakers representing individuals, businesses, developers, and subdivisions describe the proposed plan, especially how the traffic issues, would affect them negatively.

George Potts of Northgate and Peter Dorsey of Silo Hill expressed strong reservations regarding the proposed (Please see HEARING on page 10)

TOWN MEETING

Ringing in the New Year at the January 9 town meeting was talk of mandatory display of street numbers on all houses in Emmitsburg (Ordinance 94-15), and a proposal to offer retirement benefits and health insurance to elected town officials (Ordinance 94-11).

Town Manager Yvette Semler told the council that numbers on houses are necessary for those responding to emergency calls (fire, police, and ambulance), and that they are also important for correct billing of water fees.

The cost of including elected officials in the town's benefit package is estimated at approximately \$11,000 per year. Mayor Carr commented that "this package may serve as a perk to get people interested in running for office." Current officials will not be eligible to receive these benefits.

A public hearing will be held Feb. 6 at 7:00 p.m. so that residents will have an opportunity to express their thoughts on these proposed ordinances.

Mayor Carr announced that the town's attorney, John H. Tisdale of Tisdale, Clapp & Carper, has been appointed a judge and can no longer serve as our legal advisor. The council is considering continuing with the same firm, as well as other applicants.

In response to Silo Hill resident Patty Ortner's inquiry into the status of the plans for the proposed park next to their subdivision, Commissioner Weaver stated that the town now has the deed for the parcel of land and the funds to develop it. He said there will be a Parks and Recreation

Meetings At The Town Office

Jan. 19 - Public Workshop, 7 p.m.

Jan. 26 - Parks & Recreation, 7 p.m.

Jan. 30 - Planning & Zoning, 7 p.m.

Feb. 6 - Public Hearing, 7 p.m.

Feb. 6 - Town Council, 7:30 p.m.

Commission meeting on Jan. 26 at 7 p.m. to discuss the plans.

Yvette Semler reported that Doug Rose of the Maryland State Highway Department would be at the next town meeting (Feb. 6) to discuss the intersection of Silo Hill Road and Md 140. Residents of Silo Hill have asked that a sidewalk be placed on the right-of-way along 140 at this intersection so that people can walk safely into town.

A lively discussion was held regarding the nuisance of pigeons on rooftops of houses and churches along West Main Street. It was agreed that the numbers are increasing and are a possible health hazard. The council felt that the most effective control measure at this time was to shoot them and voted that someone be hired to do this.

In other business the commissioners:

- approved the codification of the Town Code, at a cost of \$3,900, to reduce confusion and add clarity to the town's laws, rules, and ordinances;

- decided to rebid the pool contract for 1995 because Potomac Valley Pool Management Corp., who won the bid for the '95 season, is unable to fulfil its contract;

- and tabled until the Jan. 19 public workshop Commissioner Gingell's proposal to eliminate hunting on the town's watershed for the purpose of maintaining a safe water supply.

CRIME SOLVERS

The Emmitsburg Community Deputies are seeking information about the theft of a model train set from Myers TV on East Main Street. The theft occurred on Friday, Dec. 23, 1994.

The train is described as a Western Maryland Model, Black engine (Number 1015), with a silver boiler and red top over the cab. Attached to the engine is a black coal car.

A reward is offered for information leading to the arrest of persons responsible. If you have any information contact DFC Horner or DFC Hunter at 447-2312. Callers do not have to give their names.

(**OFFICIALS** from page 1)

more viable community. "We believe the reason for this increase is two fold: first, a subtle change in citizen awareness brought on by younger families moving to Emmitsburg that are attentive to matters regarding their well-being from a social, economic, governmental, and moral standpoint. Secondly, the town government has sought to further involve residents in a more positive atmosphere that has fostered a "my town" feeling. We fully realize that this 1994 accomplishment is not tangible, and while it has no direct dollar value, we are truly fortunate to have it in place and hope that it can be developed and built upon in the coming years.

"There have been other changes that have taken place within the town that have made an important difference for its citizens. The town acquired a sizable state grant that will enable us to upgrade our water treatment and distribution system, which is sorely needed. Progress has been made in the plans for renovation of our Community Building. The town received \$86,000 through the state's Opens Spaces Program for future recreational improvement. Both Community Park and Memorial Park have been enhanced through the application of a considerable amount of hard work and ingenuity by our town staff. Streets, on a priority basis, have been repaided or repaired to the fullest extent of budgeted dollars. The town was able to reduce its heavy debt service in two ways-no new debt and continued payment of debt incurred.

"We, at the town office, have learned much and hope we can improve to make Emmitsburg an even better place in 1995."

Mayor Carr continued: "The primary concern for the new year is that the town government operate with increased efficiency from a fiscal standpoint allowing the town to go forward in supplying its citizens with the services to which they are entitled. We realize that this is a broad concern, but inreality that is what the Town Council and staff are elected and appointed to accomplish, to provide the best service possible.

"The issue that will affect Emmitsburg (Please see OFFICIALS on page 3)

(OFFICIALS from page 2)

the most in 1995 is the Emmitsburg Community Building. The past year was beneficial for the town in regards to county commitment and finalization of proposed planning. The upcoming year will be more demanding in that funding solutions will have to be found. The town will initiate a major fund drive that will encompass not only local citizens and businesses but agencies and sources from outside our town. This funding endeavor will require the enlistment of every resource possible.

" There are other significant matters that our community will address, with Emmitsburg's water supply distribution systems being the most critical. The updating of the delivery component will commence in the spring, and both the treatment plant rehabilitation and the search for supplementary water sources will this summer. Subsequently, residential development will go forward and the town government must be judicious in seeing that any development, residential or business, is beneficial to community's well-being.

"The issues, both known and unknown, will present all of us with challenges that we will meet head on with diligence in the hope for a better Emmitsburg."



Vigilant Hose Company officers for 1995 seated in the first row, left to right: Art Damuth, President; Douglas Wivell, Vice President; Steven Valentine, Secretary; Christopher Staley, Assist. Secretary; Steven Hollinger, Treasurer; John Glass, Assist. Treasurer. Standing in second row: Patrick Sullivan, Chaplain; Line Officers Frank Davis, Chief; James Click, 1st Assistant Chief; Timothy Clarke, 2nd Assistant Chief; David A. Vaughn, Lieutenant; Fire Police Officers Samuel Cool, Captain; Stephen Orndorff, 2nd Lieutenant; (Bob Koontz, 1st Lieutenant was not present). Third row, Board of Directors: David Copenhaver; Herbert Click, Jr.; Eugene Grimes; James Glass; John Hollinger, and Charles Stouter

The Vigilant Hose Company: "Reaching New Heights"

Over 200 people attended the 111th Anniversary Banquet of the Emmitsburg Vigilant Hose Company held at Mother Seton School January 7, 1995. Spirits were high and a good time was had by members and guests of the VHC who had much to celebrate this year.

The arrival of the new tower truck (Tower 6) and the renovation of the fire station (Please see BANQUET on page 4)



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Officers of the Ladies Auxiliary presenting check for \$35,000 to VHC President Art Damuth. Left to right: Joyce Wivell, Secretary; Patty Kuykendall, Vice President; Dot Davis, President; Art Damuth; Kay Hollinger, Assistant Secretary; and Jo Ann Boyd, Treasurer.

HONK!!!

If You Can't Turn Left

Frustrated? Aggravated because you're second in line on East Main Street and want to turn left on to South Seton Avenue and you have to wait for three signal changes before you can make it? More likely you've executed the quick lunging dive though the space between oncoming cars trusting in the reaction time of the driver you are cutting off and hoping that your tires aren't slick. The Light on the square continues to be a source of irritation to most folks trying to get to the post office. It's a phenomenon foisted on the town by the state Department of Transportation (DOT) that we have been living with and silently cursing every day—well, sometimes not so quietly.

"Well," I thought in all my naiveté, "maybe there is a better solution to this infernal signal situation. I'll just study the existing data, look for any errors in the data, check out the logic of the guys who are responsible for this folly, have a look to see that there are no gremlins or bugs, and Voila!—a new solution." Traffic surveyors

The Emmitsburg Regional Dispatch

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The Emmitsburg Regional Dispatch 10635 Harney Road Emmitsburg, MD 21727 301-447-6275 and "bean-counters" are pretty reliable; where to look? Maybe they were counting the wrong thing! Everyone knows that in any mathematical solution or in a problem there is a "fudge factor" or some postulated theoretical particle that helps explain everything. I would invent my own. Conventional wisdom is that you need goals, something around which to organize your quest for knowledge, and everyone who lives in a small town knows you can always find out anything if you really look for it. Equipped with my Dummies' Guide to Ouantum Mechanics I set out to discover my theoretical creation—the TrafficPacket, a system made up of the vehicle itself and that part of the space/time continuum it controls. The hunt was on.

I found them! TrafficPackets exist. A modest Eureka. The whole bloomin' snarled-up, aggravating, impossible left-turn situation is caused by these TrafficPackets. Now comes the hard part—convincing the authorities. Here's the plan—inundate the DOT with multiple sightings of the TrafficPacket and have them re-time **The Light** to TrafficPackets instead of the car count given by the archaic counters they put across the street that do not measure the space-time continuum surrounding the vehicle.

If you want to see the TrafficPacket in action here's what you look for. One car controls the space it actually occupies while at rest and the space of about 3 to 5 car lengths both in front of and behind it, depending upon its relative velocity. A quantitized TrafficPacket moving at 20 miles per hour occupies a space of about 75 feet and takes about 4.5 seconds to pass through the light. (Albert Einstein would have loved this.)

(Please see LIGHT on page 5)

Good Samaritan Award

James R. Hill of Grimes Road has been nominated as a Good Samaritan by Tonya Sanders. Tonya and her child were stranded when her car broke down and nobody bothered to offer assistance or show any concern until James came along and took them home, much to the relief of a worried mother. Two thumbs up for James's thoughtfulness.

(BANQUET from page 3)

were highlights of 1994. They were the results of "hard work and dedication by a number of committees and individual efforts," Frank Davis wrote in his Chief''s Report.

Following the hearty banquet meal served by Watson's Catering, Guy Baker, master of ceremonies, welcomed the guests and proceeded with the program.

Bernard Boyle (1905-1994), a longtime faithful member of VHC, was remembered in a memorial service conducted by Chaplain Patrick Sullivan.

The keynote address was given by Craig E. Coleman of the Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems.

Dot Davis, president of the Ladies Auxiliary, presented Vigilant Hose Company president Art Damuth with a check for \$35,000 for the VHC's Capital Campaign for Community Safety. Expressing his deep appreciation to the auxiliary for their gift, Damuth reported that \$510,000 has been raised towards the goal of \$650,000 to help meet the cost of Tower 6 and the building renovation.

Following the installation of 1995 officers, awards and recognition of service were presented by Chief Davis. The top ten responders were 1) Jim Click; 2) Chris Staley; 3) Dave Vaughn; 4) Steve King; 5) Raymond Sanders; 6) Vince Boyle; 7) Steve Hollinger; 8) Gabe Baker; 9) Carl White; and 10) Doug Wivell and Chris Byard.

The top three fire police were 1) Bob Koontz; 2) Butch Morningstar; and 3) Sam Cool.

Service awards were presented to the following: 5 years of service - Steve King, Nevin Eiker, Jr., and Donna Shriver; 10 years - Chris Byard; 15 years - Jim Click, Steve Orndorff, and Sam Topper; 20 years - Greg Hollinger and Tom Topper; 25 years and life member - David Copenhaver and Gary Glass; 40 years - Art Damuth; 45 years - Brooke Damuth, Charles Hartdagen, and Charles F. Stouter; and 70 years - Bernard H. Boyle.

LIONS CLUB HOLDS 64TH ANNUAL CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY

by Dianne L. Walbrecker

The children had sneaked around past the watchful eyes of their parents to press their ears up against the walls of Santa's shanty. Whether they were able to hear any words from Santa or the child inside was in doubt, but the smiles of delight on their faces were real enough.

Santa's shanty was set up next to the ambulance building this year; its normal place in the town square displaced by the construction work inside the fire hall. It was the annual Lions Club Christmas party, complete with hot dogs and hot chocolatetwo sure-fire ways to a child's heart.

Every year, the Lions Club sets aside the Saturday morning before Christmas to entertain Emmitsburg's children. events vary from year to year. Recently, the children made decorations for two Christmas trees at the main square in town. The fire hall was filled with tables loaded with peanut butter in which to dip pine cones, aluminum foil to roll into holiday shapes, and glue guns for putting together ribbons. This year, a clown kept the children enthralled with such tricks as pulling a live rabbit out of a balloon. An excited child was overheard later saying, "I even petted it, Mom."

Janet Tokar, here this year with her great granddaughter, Christina Hansen, 8 years old, attended her first Lions Club party at age (Please see PARTY on page 19)



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110 De Paul Street PO Box 128 Emmitsburg, MD 21727 (LIGHT continued from page 4)

Here's what's going on. The lights have been timed according to the "bean" counters. (A "bean" is a TrafficPacket at rest). South Seton Ave. traffic has been given more "GO" time because the counters show there are more "beans" on that street. There is no problem for this traffic to go straight ahead or turn right. There is also very little problem turning left because the number of TrafficPackets on North Seton Ave. is small. However, during this interval TrafficPackets have been lining up at The Light or are just coming around the corner at the Emmit House and haven't made it to the counting mechanism yet. The timing mechanism doesn't even know they exist.

Now comes the timing problem. The TrafficPackets coming from the west occupy a space and time that requires more "GO" time than given by **The Light**. The larger spacetime units are forced to go through the intersection in a shorter period of time than allowed for the north-south flow.

You can see it for yourself! Next time you are passing through the square compare how many TrafficPackets make it past the intersection going east to west in the time allotted with the number that get through going north. If enough people observe these TrafficPackets and let traffic control division know of the sightings perhaps we can get them to move the little sensor-thingies they have in the street that detect "beans" to a position that is more appropriate for controlling the signal by Traffic Packets. And throw in delayed green or directional arrow for good measure. (Please see LIGHT on page 19)



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CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS

Senior Citizens

by Anna Margaret Martin

Br-r-r! "The North Wind will blow and we may have snow, sleet, and cold weather." December went out quite calmly, but January 1995 came in cold, windy - just like winter. I certainly hope it doesn't get as bad as last winter.

So far the weather hasn't closed the center, but if it does, remember there will be no meals, especially when schools are closed. If in doubt, call the center (447-6253), and if no one answers (10 a.m.)we won't be there. Listen to your radio every morning.

December was a busy month with Christmas dinners and bingo. The center was decorated for the holidays with a tree and many other "goodies." In fact, it may be left intact for a couple more weeks.

Activities for January and early February will be as follows:

Jan. 16 & 17 - Lunch at Corney's

Jan 19 - Bingo

.Jan. 26 - "500" Card Party

Jan. 24 - Meeting Day

Feb. 2 - Bingo

Feb. 9 - "500" Card Party

On Tuesday, January 31, Mrs. Schneider's 5th grade from the Emmitsburg Elementary School will provide a program at 1:45 p.m. Last month Mrs. Wiles, the music teacher, brought the 5th graders to sing Christmas carols for us. Come and support not just the seniors, but our school. We will be having visits from the children from now until the last of May.

I'd like to welcome the residents of our new senior complex in Emmitsburg, Lincoln on the Park, and invite you to visit us at the Senior Center in the Community Building (behind the Ambulance Bldg.). Our hours are 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., Monday - Friday. Lunch is served each day at 12 noon with reservations 24 hours in advance. Transportation is available. Call Anna Margaret at 447-6253 for information.

A bus has been reserved for a trip to "Sight and Sound" to see "Noah's Ark" on Wednesday, September 6th. More information next month, but for early information call Anna Margaret.

Now until next month a "Happy New Year to all."



Alfred Gilbert, in foreground, thought "It ws very nice for a small town to do for us seniors such a nice party." A *Dispatch* Photo

One look at the faces, the crowd. and the food and it was clear that the Christmas Party sponsored by the Emmitsburg Youth Activity group was a smasher. Jerry Horner, Dave Hunter, and Bob Koontz want to thank all of those who helped make the event such an enjoyable time for all. There were kids, and cooks, and helpers. There were businesses and organizations that deserve special mention for their generosity: Jubilee Foods, Emmitsburg V.F.W., Main Street Deli, Thurmont Pepsi Cola, and Emmitsburg Ambulance Co. #26.

Robert Copenhaver got the steam table "juiced up," Elwood Eiker and the Catoctin Mt. Blue Grass Review kept things "pepped up," and Marty and Fay Naugle along with Rev. and Mrs. Ronald Fearer deserve special appreciation.

The caroling on horseback was well attended. Margie Smith coordinated a surprise snack for the carolers after they finished their singing. Thank you all for your donation of goodwill and holiday spirit.



Emmitsburg Public Library

By Kate Warthen

Our Doll Exhibit and Tea Party turned out great. Nineteen children attended, dressed in their Christmas finery and bringing their favorite doll for "Show and Tell.". We want to thank Faith Milton and Mary Krom for sharing their treasured dolls.

When Sarah Clonty was asked what she liked about the tea party she said, "It's fun, the greatest party in the whole wide world." Caroline Gamble, bringing her American Girl doll in a look-alike costume of her own said, "The party was fun." Megan Adelsberger said her favorite doll sleeps near her and added, "I cover her every night in the cradle." Barbara McCarran said, "I had a lot of fun." Renata Schmersal, Erin Emory, and Sammy McCarron just smiled while sipping and stirring more sugar into their tea cups.

Hope Mahoney helped to serve tea. Sheila Chatlos, Mary Hoke, and Nancy Gamble are Library Board members who made cookies for the occasion. We vowed to do it again next year in a bigger and better way.

Monday, December 12th, was a wonderful day as well. Members of the



Kate Warthen pours tea at library's doll and tea party Photo

A Dispatch

Lions Club lifted and lugged furniture, old carpet, and chairs all around. They emptied loads of boxes of books in preparation for the upcoming Friends of the Library Book Sale. It was a lift we really needed and put the room adjacent to the library in much better order. Thanks again, Lions.

Our thanks to Bea Keilholtz and Edith Shriver for the lovely greens that graced the door and beautiful evergreens that decorated the desk. Thanks also to the Garden Club members.

Library hours have been extended on Monday. We are now open on Monday morning and straight through the evening from 2-9 p.m. These are additional hours.

LITTLE LEAGUE

NO STRIKE BASEBALL

The Little League Meeting will be held Wednesday, Jan 18, 7:00 p.m. at the V.F.W. The Little League is planning to bring to the community another full season of strike-free baseball with a free-wheeling, open style of play guaranteeing great fun for all involved.

There are some problems, though. The league is still in need of managers and coaches for the 14/15-year old team and the 16/18-year old team. Umpires are also needed, no eye exam required. If you are interested or even curious about working with the kids of the community in a fun-for-all way, call Roy Wivell at 447-2881 for more information.

SETON CENTER HONORS WORKERS

Staff members of Seton Center were recognized for their dedication and years of service at the annual Christmas dinner. Service awards were given to the following staff members: Lydia Kelly, 20 years; Jean Sanders, 20 years; Bonnie Peel, 15 years; Joyce Grimm, 15 years; Tammy Eiker, 10 years; and Nancy Lee Coady, 10 years. Sister Mary Beard, Director of Seton Center, said, "We are so fortunate to have such good and loyal staff."

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Up-County Family Center Offers

NEW WORKSHOPS FOR WOMEN

Issues for Women Featured By Jane Huston

Cathy Scott, a counselor from Co-Creators of Gettysburg, works with local women in a support group. She will lead workshops for women dealing with appropriate women's issues. The meetings will be held twice a month at the Up-County Family Center.

Cathy graduated from Western Maryland College with a Master's Degree in Counseling, Addictions, and Rehabilitation. She has a very extensive and diverse background working with men's and women's issues, abuse, victims of abuse, and a variety of addictions. Cathy feels blessed to be involved in this type of work and believes "our real work finds us."

The first workshop is called "Getting What You Want." The focus will be on helping women become aware of the resources, dreams, and gifts they have. It will be held at the Up-County Family Center on January 11. The second workshop is titled "Letting Go." This workshop will center around helping let go of old ideas which don't work anymore and getting the courage to change your mind.

February's workshops are scheduled for February 1 and February 15. The topics are "Saying What You Mean and Meaning What You Say" and "Self-Confidence."

All workshops are held in the mornings from 9:00 a.m. -10:30 a.m.. They are open-ended workshops and there is no charge. Childcare for children from newborns to 3 is provided free of charge and limited transportation is available. Call the Up-County Family Center for more details and to register for these workshops. Take advantage of these opportunities. Call today: 447-2810.

MULTI-SERVICE CENTER PLANNED FOR **EMMITSBURG**

The Town of Emmitsburg, Up-County Family Center, and the Frederick Community Action Agency are working together to build and operate a new Emmitsburg Multi-Service Center in downtown Emmitsburg, MD. Construction for this new building will begin this summer.

This facility will be built and operated by the Town of Emmitsburg. It will house a variety of nonprofit human service agencies including Up-County Family Center, Catholic Charities, an outreach office for the Frederick Community Action Agency, and others. The new Multi-Service Center will offer "one-stop shopping" for families. It will be the center of a wide range of services that address crises and emergencies. There will also be facilities for teaching preventive skills, adult education, and job training.



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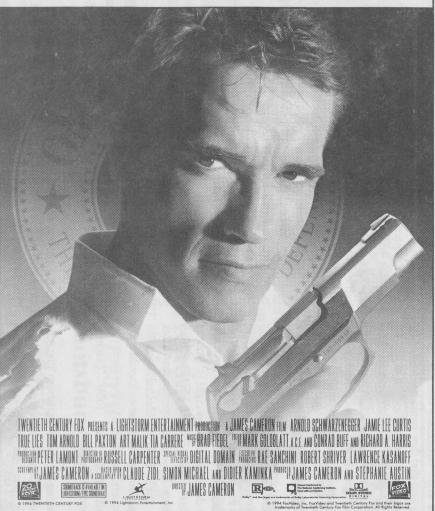
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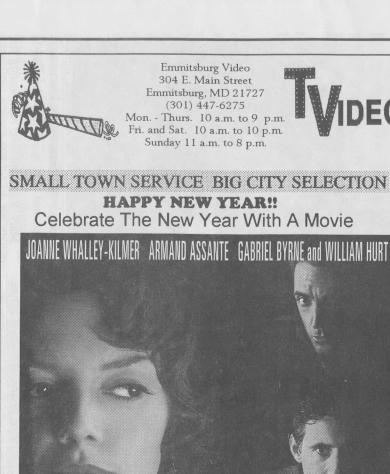
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(HEARING from page 1)

reservations regarding the proposed collector road to run adjacent to their areas. Safety of the many children in the area and traffic noise were main concerns. Potts said, "I moved to this area to escape that kind of traffic noise." Dorsey, a former member of the local Planning and Zoning Committee, pointed out that the northern collector road would separate a proposed recreational park from the main area of the Silo Hill development and that there is some thought being given to not developing the park because of the danger to the small children having to cross the 60-foot road.

Chris Weaver, Parks and Recreation Commissioner for Emmitsburg, said that the staff draft undermined the proposed recreational park growth and development. He said that Emmitsburg had applied for an \$86,000 Open Spaces Grant and that money had been frozen because of the possibility of a southern collector road. He appealed to the commission to remove the collector road from the plan so that the money will become available and development can begin.

Ron Stouter, owner of Mt. Liquors, spoke for eight businesses along N. Seton Ave. He said that they could be isolated by the elimination of an intersection at US 15. He pointed out that the draft works against itself by claiming interest in developing economic growth in one objective but dooming eight businesses under another objective by eliminating the intersection. The eight businesses employ 60 people.

Robert Rosensteel of Emmitsburg called for common sense and said, "All of this puts the cart before the horse." He told the commission that "the best resource you have for doing your job is right in front of you." This remark brought applause from the audience. Rosensteel reported that Mark Hoke, the newly elected county commissioner, had said that we should try to create a marriage between the two plans [i.e. the staff draft and local planning commission proposals].

Speaking for the Emmitsburg Planning and Zoning Committee, Julie Seifert said that they and the town commissioners oppose the collector roads and strongly urge



Citizens consider the future at the recent public hearing held at Emmitsburg Elementary School. The Comprehensive Plan was discussed.

A Dispatch Photo

the consideration of an east-to-west bypass in the Welty Road area with the construction of a cloverleaf interchange at US 15. They also recommended a southern bypass in the Annandale Road area connecting US 15 with MD 140 west to the state line.

The main point made by most speakers was that shuttling local traffic around on collector roads does not address the major traffic problem in Emmitsburg —the large amount of truck traffic through the town that is damaging the street and is a harmful nuisance. Bill Steo, a resident living on W. Main Street, said that the commission needs to work on "solving the problems of the present. The diesel smoke from the trucks is a problem. The plan should be revised to get rid of the trucks on Main Street."

Mary Catherine Shields objected to the proposed bicycle/jogging path along Old Emmitsburg Road from Mount Saint Mary's College into the town for reasons of safety. Jim Gugel of the planning staff said he recognized her concern. He went on to point out that the staff had been criticized for not being more active in planning for this kind of project and that this was their first foray into this area.

(See next column -->)

Mary Ray Cantwell, representing the North West Frederick County Civic Association of the Sabillasville area, expressed the hope that US 15 would maintain its Catoctin Mountain Scenic Highway designation.

Larry Noel of the Eyler Valley Civic Association appeared before the commission to thank them for their interest in conservation in the Eyler Valley area. Several speakers expressed their appreciation to the commission for making the effort to hold this special meeting in the Emmitsburg area.



Health Care Tips & Reminder To Attend the Lions Club Annual Health Fair

by Ed Galligan, Pharmacist, Emmitsburg Pharmacy

The national health-care debate is continuing. Experts across the country argue about how to save money and which choices are best for our new system. However, we may be overlooking specific modifications to lifestyles which can reduce health-care costs and medical complications associated with medical conditions.

Prevention and early detection of medical conditions are well-demonstrated ways in which we can actively participate in our own well-being. The benefits are obvious. By preventing illness or controlling present conditions we reduce medical visits, lessen complications, and improve outcomes. In early detection the benefits are equally impressive, especially in early detection of heart conditions, and numerous types of cancer.

What can we do? What should we do? Where do we start? These are simple but important questions. The best time to start is now. The best way to start is with a good, common-sense approach to a better self-help health program. If you're not sure what you can do, check with your health care provider who'll be able to recommend how and when you should start. Now here are some tips to get you started.

Diet - Reduce fat intake and increase fiber in your diet. Planning meals weekly, ahead of time, can help you make healthier meal choices.

Exercise - Start slowly and gradually, work up to a routine program that's best suited to your age and ability. Make it fun, vary your exercises, and involve a spouse or friend for mutual encouragement.

Smoking - If you don't smoke, don't start. If you do smoke, quit! There are many

smoke-ending programs available including nicotine patches to help you "kick the habit."

Alcohol - If you drink alcohol, do so in moderation. Never drink and drive.

Routine checkups - Schedule routine checkups. Your medical team is there to help with current problems, early detection, and suggestions to improve your overall health.

Education - Ask questions, read, be active in maintaining your own health. Books, magazines, and self-diagnostic devices (home blood pressure kits, diabetic testing kits, etc.) can help you monitor your health

To learn more about health-care and meet the members of the local health care team you can take advantage of the services offered at the 12th Annual Health Fair sponsored by the Emmitsburg Lions Club. It will be held on Saturday, April 1, at the Mother Seton School. If you are interested in having a mammogram, please call Gene Rosensteel to reserve an appointment. Call 446-2562. Blood tests require a 12-hour fast before testing.

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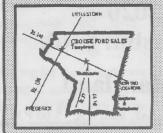
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ATTENTION SHOPPERS!

by Sian Cadle, New York City

"Jingle Bells, Jeeee—eeen—Gull—Bells!"

The female jazz vocalist version of the old standby reflected perfectly our shoppers' attitude—near hysterical rambling against a worn-out tune.

Scene: Hip clothing store, NYC.

Time: The worst imaginable to entertain the notion that anyone could be inherently good or that peace on this planet would ever be likely, especially down here amongst the elbows of the most competitive shoppers in the world.

Otis and I had to be the most honest holiday shoppers in the place. We weren't looking to get something for nothing and made no pretense that we were shopping for anyone but ourselves. Purchase in hand, we waited politely in line; speculating if one of us would be the first to snap from the holiday strain or would it be the female jazz vocalist's shrieking relentlessly against the fabric of the speaker. On and on we waited, remarking how true it is that anyone ahead of you in line is an absolute idiot. As we gradually approached the register, it was obvious the clerks' collective nerve had been shorting out long before we arrived; the smell of ozone hung ominously in the air. At last one shopper too many tried to bend the laws of physics in regards to my personal space and I threw up my arms and yelled, "I'm outa here!" As I left, I felt more than one look of envy stab me in the back from behind the counter.

I watched Otis from the safety of the street only to see what I'd hoped to avoid. Otis was going mad and taking three clerks with him! I watched the four of them, arms waving in the air, jumping up and down with mouths wide open. But wait! What was this!? The clerks were smiling! Soon choruses of "Yay!" swept out with a triumphant Otis onto the street. "What on earth did you say to those people?" I demanded to know.

It went something like this: "Attention! May I have your attention please. The holidays have been terminated. Please return your gifts and go back to your homes! Repeat. The holidays have been terminated due to a lack of sanity. Please remove your tress and cease all caroling! Put away your ornaments and go back to your homes. "Jeeee—eeen—Gull—Bells."

Next holiday season, I have three words: Home Shopping Club.

(Ed. note: Sian is presently serving incognito as the *Dispatch's* on-site observer in NYC.)

LAMP LIGHT AND HOLLY AWARDS

The Emmitsburg Business and Professional Association, sponsors of the 3rd Annual Christmas Decoration Awards, and the judges wish to thank all of the citizens of Emmitsburg who decorated their homes and establishments. The town was ablaze with lights, live greens were everywhere, and there were more red ribbons than ever before. From the historic district to the newer subdivisions there is no other town that can compare to Emmitsburg aglow in all its Christmas finery.

Winners in the Single Family Homes (including townhomes) Division were 1st Place - Mr. and Mrs. Rice of 659 West Main Street, 2nd Place - Mr. and Mrs. Sloane of 500 East Main Street, and 3rd Place - Mr. Stultz and Ms. Cool of 401 East Main Street. Those gaining Honorable Mention were Mr. and Mrs. Bushman of 9428 Waynesboro Pike, Mr. and Mrs. Reed of 3 Reeny Circle, Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Sherald of 303 S. Seton Ave., and Mr. and Mrs. Hewitt of, 420 East Main Street.

In the All Others Division, which includes businesses, offices, multi-units, etc., the winners were 1st Place - Total Look on the Square, 2nd Place - Myers' Radio and TV on East Main Street, and 3rd Place - the Carriage House on South Seton Avenue.

Subscribe to easy reading - The Dispatch

Christmas Thanks From Ann Gingell

The Christmas Decorating Committee once again can say, "A job well done." In just three hours 180 swags of greens and ribbons were completed.

We want to thank the following people: Mary Rice; Pat Norvath; Dottie Phelan; Mary Hoke; Donna Cusio; Loretta Adelsberger; Wayne, Brenda, and Melissa Powell; Cynthia Steinfelt; Jeremy Gingell; Doc and Chata Carr; Ann Kulceski; Guy and Betty Ann Baker; Mandi Johnson; Cindy, April, Mark and Leann Adams; Bea Keilholtz; Carolynn Cockerill; and Dianne Walbrecker

The swags and roping were hung by Rick Krietz and Jim Click. The pine rope and Christmas tree on the square were donated by Debbie Lewis and family. Monetary donations that we know of came from Mr. and Mrs. Gerber of Northgate, Ralph Irelan, the F&M Bank, and The Town of Emmitsburg. We would like to mention all who contributed, but we have no way of knowing. (Our apologies if we missed any one.) Let us thank you and wish each and every one a Happy New Year.



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CORRESPONDENTS

St. Anthony/OLMC News

By Ann Marshall

Christmas flowers and decorations for both parishes were provided through memorial donations. The Parish Bulletin for Christmas Day listed 98 memorials at St. Anthony's and 79 memorials at our Lady of Mt. Carmel. Mary M. Saffer was especially thanked for the new gold vestment which was worn for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services.

The Human Services Committees of St. Anthony/OLMC parishes adopted nine families for Christmas giving. A generous supply of presents geared to the ages and needs of the family members was collected. In one special effort, a bicycle was purchased for a five-yearold with donations from W.F. Delauter & Sons, C.J. Fink, Hobbs Hardware, and Shamrock Restaurant.

Thanksgiving donations made by St. Anthony/OLMC parishioners to the Emmitsburg food bank at Seton Center were reported as unusually generous. Since feeding the hungry is a day-after-day good work, food donations will be collected at both parishes on the third weekend of each month throughout the coming year.

The annual MARCH FOR LIFE will be held on Monday, January 23, in Washington, D.C.. Those wishing to attend may eliminate the driving and parking hassle by joining people from area parishes who will travel together by bus. Buses will leave from the Festival Food parking lot in Gettysburg at approximately 8:00 a.m. Anyone interested in being "a voice for those who have none" is asked to contact Shirley Geoghan as soon as possible. Cost is \$10 per person; bring your own bag lunch.

A SPANISH LANGUAGE MASS is celebrated frequently at St. John's Regional School auditorium, 112 E. Second St., Frederick, MD. The next scheduled SPAN-ISH MASS will be at 1:00 p.m. on Sunday, Jan. 22, 1995

Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish welcomed Valerie Nicole Ritter and Tara Ann Woelfel into the Catholic Faith as they were baptized Sunday, Dec. 18. Valerie is the daughter of James and Michele Ritter, and Tara Ann is the daughter of John and Brenda Woelfel.

Anyone wishing an OFFERTORY CON-TRIBUTION STATEMENT for 1994 is asked to call the Parish Office at 337-2367 by Friday, January 27.

SNOW POLICY: If a parish event must be canceled because of inclement weather, it will be announced on WFMD 930 AM, WFRE 99.0FM, WZYO 103.9FM, WTHU 1450 AM, AND WYCR 98.5FM.

Rocky Ridge

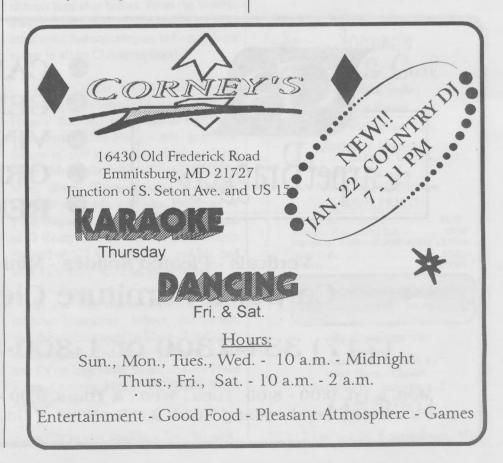
By Emma Keeney
We extend our deepest sympathies to the family and friends of Roland Wilson who died Dec. 31, to the family and friends of Mrs. George (Kathy) Keeney who died Dec. 30., and to the family and friends of Edgar Strawsburg who died Jan. 1.

The Mt. Tabor Sunday School Christmas party was held Dec. 17. The evening began with a welcome to everyone from Kenneth Sharrer, superintendent of the Sunday School. There were scripture readings from the Men and Women's Classes. Each class sang songs and Kenny told stories between the presentations. Then everyone sang "Here Comes Santa Claus," and the children became very excited, because Santa did come. He had a gift for each child. Mae Long, 91, our oldest Sunday School member, presented Santa a gift. Gifts were given to the Secret Sisters and the men exchanged gifts. Everyone enjoyed a game of Jeopardy. Delicious refreshments were served by the Men's and Women's Classes.

Belated birthday wishes to Pastor James Russell, Carl Setherley, Isabel Anthony Harris, William Mathias. Dinterman, Pauline Sharrer, Jeanie Angleberger, and Elmer Pete Lambert.

Happy birthday wishes for February to Greta Lambert, Emma Lou Harris, Jonathan Moser, Jeanette Miller, Bradly Greene, Marshall Sharrer Jr., Marshall Sharrer, Sr., and Philip Dinterman.

Pvt. 1st Class Kenneth Frushour was home for Christmas and has returned to Fort Riley Kansas. Pvt. Michael Harris was home for Christmas and has returned to Fort Knox, KY. Vicky Kenney was home (Please see ROCKY RIDGE page 17)



(ROCKY RIDGE from page 16)

for Christmas and has returned to Villa Julie College. Philip Dinterman was home for Christmas and has returned to Franklin & Marshall College.

Mr. and Mrs. Larry Smith and son Lee visited her mother Mary Ellen Cummings during the Christmas holidays and have returned to Clanton, Alabama. Charles Keeney Jr. visited his family for Christmas and returned to Arlington, VA.

Rocky Ridge News

The Ladies Auxiliary held their annual Christmas Party on Dec. 4 with 112 ladies and young girls attending and as always enjoyed being served by the Rocky Ridge Firemen. They were enjoyably entertained by Robert Priest, a mind reader. The auxiliary would like to thank the community for all their help and support throughout the year.

The next butchering will be February 16-18 with the buffet breakfast on Feb. 18 from 6 a.m. until 11 a.m.. Bingo will start again on Jan. 7 and will continue every Sat. night thereafter until April 29.

Mt. Tabor Quilters

Mt. Tabor Quilters closed their 1994 season with a Family Banquet on December 27 at the Church Activity Building. A covered dish dinner was enjoyed by about 40 quilters and their families. Place favors were furnished by Pauline Duble, who had made yo-yo angels for everyone.

The Quilters' Christmas charity was collection of empty plastic pill bottles. Three large boxes of bottles were delivered to Rev. Paul Maxey (Woodsboro United Church of Christ) to be used in his medical ministries to third world countries.

On Tuesday, January 10th, the quilters will be hosting the children from Thurmont's St. John's Lutheran Pre-school. About 55 children will spend their "Q" day learning about how quilts are made. Each child will have the opportunity to put a few stitches in a small quilt.

If any of you quilters, or "wanna-bee" quilters care to join us, come on out on Tuesdays from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. to the Mt. Tabor Church Activity Building, Rocky Ridge. Bring a bag lunch and spend some time with us. Call 271-7933 to be sure weather didn't cancel us.



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TAX ALERT

By Don Geiger

There are new rules affecting the taxability of Social Security Retirement Benefits. Basically, many more senior citizens will now be taxed on their social security benefits. Understanding these new rules can help you eliminate any surprises on April 15th.

The new rules provide for a second tier of social security taxability which may inadvertently tax retired individuals who have secondary income sources.

First-tier rules affect taxpayers with provisional income below \$34,000 (\$44,000 on a joint return). Under the previous rules, a maximum of 50% of the social security retirement benefits was taxed.

Second-tier rules affect taxpayers with provisional income above the threshold of \$34,000 (\$44,000 on a joint return). The taxability portion of social security benefits is computed using a complex formula under which a maximum of 85% of the social security benefits may be included in taxable income.

A careful analysis of earned income, investment income, and income from retirement sources will assist calculation of provisional income. Taxpayers who are within the phase-in range of the 85% reportable versus 50% reportable, will benefit from strategic tax planning. A deduction such as an IRA contribution that reduces Adjusted Gross Income may reduce the impact of the tax on social security benefits. Be careful with treatment of tax-exempt interest and certain tax-deferred income from U.S. Savings Bonds.

If you feel you may fall within these categories, you may want to consult your tax advisor. If you would like a free copy of a worksheet to calculate taxability of social security benefits call 447-3346.

This article was provided by Don Geiger, a practicing CPA in the Emmitsburg area providing tax preparation, tax and retirement planning, and accounting services to small businesses.

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(LIGHT from page 5)

What we need is an integration of science and good ol' common horse sense. One definition of science is "Doing one's darndest with one's mind." Go on down and observe TrafficPackets for yourself. A definition of horse sense is "something that a jackass doesn't have." Let's all of us not be too stubborn in our thinking to believe that we can't get the DOT folks to keep trying till they can make it right. Do you remember when Emmitsburg was called a one-horse town? Here we are right in the middle of the here-and-now with our own fandangled high-tech traffic light and it's screwed-up. Folk up here love to complain that the officials down-county ignore us. Well, don't let them.

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Emmitsburg, MD 21727

FUNERALS

Funeral services for Mrs. Charlotte Dolores (Miller) Lingg, 64, of DePaul St., Emmitsburg, MD, who died Thursday, December 15, at her residence were held Monday, December 19, with a Mass of Christian Burial from St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church, Emmitsburg, MD, with her pastor Rev. Fr. Alfred R. Pehrsson as the Principal Celebrant. Interment was in new St. Joseph's Cemetery, Emmitsburg, MD. Arrangements by Skiles Funeral Home, Emmitsburg, MD.

Funeral services for Miss Bridie M. Newell, 86, of West Main St., Emmitsburg, MD, who died Monday, December 26, at the Gettysburg Hospital, Gettysburg, PA, were held Thursday, December 29, with a Mass of Christian Burial from St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church, Emmitsburg, MD, with her pastor Rev. Fr. Alfred R. Pehrsson as the Principal Celebrant. Interment was in New St. Joseph's Cemetery, Emmitsburg, MD. Arrangements by Skiles Funeral Home, Emmitsburg, MD.

Funeral services for Mr. Thomas Theodore Bollinger, 53, of Frailey Road, Emmitsburg, MD, who died Tuesday, December 27, at Frederick Memorial Hospital, Frederick, MD, were held Friday, December 30, with a Christian Burial Service from Elias Lutheran Church, Emmitsburg, MD, with his pastor Rev. W. Ronald Fearer officiating. Interment was in Emmitsburg Memorial Cemetery, Emmitsburg, MD. Arrangements by Skiles Funeral Home, Emmitsburg, MD.

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(PARTY continued from page 5)

"The first Lions Club party included Santa Claus, too. He gave out oranges and boxes of candy, just like now," recalled Mrs. Tokar, who was born in Emmitsburg and has lived here all her life.

"I loved going to those Christmas parties. Then I grew up and had children of my own and brought them to the party every year. I missed a few Christmas parties, but then my children gave me three grandchildren and now the great grandchildren," she said. Pat Shorb, whose house enlivens DePaul Street every Christmas season, was there with Camden Shorb, who is in kindergarten at Emmitsburg Elementary School. When interviewed, Camden said, "I like the parties with magicians and clowns." Pat, who has attended quite a few of the Christmas parties herself, added, "The kids really enjoy these parties and I think they're getting better all the time."

The first photograph of the annual Christmas party, printed in the book *Emmitsburg - Looking Back*, shows at least 90 children standing with their families in front of the Hotel Slagle, now the apartment building at the corner of South Seton and Main Street. The Lions Club has kept up the tradition since 1930. Several Lions Club members and their wives kept the tradition alive even during an 8-year period when the Lions Club did not formally exist.

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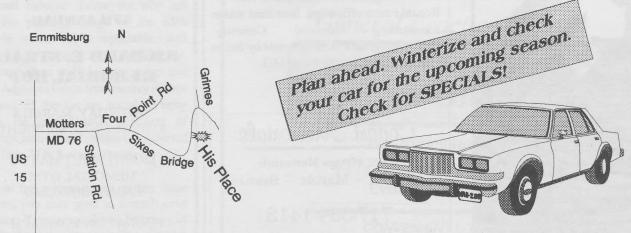
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Mother Seton School

Thank You, Santa

Dear Santa,

By Val Mentzer

It was so nice when you came to visit me at school and gave me all of those goodies: oranges and candy. Not only that, but you gave me everything I asked for Christmas morning and my whole family was really happy and grateful. That is why I am writing you this thank-you note. You get an awful lot of mail before Christmas, but I bet you don't get many thank-you letters. I thought you may enjoy hearing about how some of us at school shared our Christmas with our families.

Well, Santa, we want the 2nd grade to let you know what it is they think about when they think of Jesus. Since it was just his birthday, we thought you may like these answers:

Jesus is born on Christmas.
Jesus is the son of God.
Jesus is God's own son.
Jesus had no sins.
Jesus is the Christ.
by Kevin Moore, Mrs. Ott's 2nd grade

We would all like to thank you Santa. And we hope you will have a prosperous New Year! We will see you next Christmas.

Love,

The Mother Seton School students.

My Family Christmas

My family Christmas is really, really fun. Yes, the McKenzie Christmas is fun. It's my favorite holiday as well as it is a celebration for Christ being born. Anyway, my family has a lot to do before Christmas. We put the green tree up and decorate it. We put up red bows and blue ribbons, different colored lights and yellow bells, jolly stuff like that. We go to the store and buy eggnog and brown turkey and yellow stuffing. We wrap Christmas presents under the tree. We listen to Christmas music on the radio. We

SCHOOL NEWS

clean, clean, clean, and still clean. We put together puzzles. Christmas is almost here. We go to mass. We come home and unwrap one Christmas present. We go to bed waiting for Santa. I wake up. "It's Christmas," I yell! I run down the stairs as fast and loud as a herd of buffalo in the house. I see all the presents. I go wake up my family. They come racing down the stairs just like I did. We leap at our presents and start ripping the wrapping as if we are digging for gold. There are toy guns, hats, cameras, army figures, and sport equipment. It is a jolly Christmas. I thank my family for the presents they have given me, and I thank God. Then we play with toys and put on clothes. We eat, eat, eat. We play with more toys and put on more clothes. We eat Christmas cookies that we made. We go to bed and say Merry Christmas and good

By Timmy McKenzie, Mrs. Hoyt's 3rd grade

My Christmas Gift By Daniel Banan, Mrs. Miller's 2nd Grade

If I were a Christmas gift, I would be a castle knight. I would give myself to a poor kid. I would invite him to my home. When they got to my home, I would give myself to him. I would feel happy.

Other Christmas activities:

The Mother Seton School community showed their Christmas-time generosity by helping a family in need. Our faithful and dedicated maintenance staff, Mr. Guy Ridenour and Mrs. Doris Ott (brother and sister) had a family member who lost their home because of a fire right before Christmas. Our school community united and raised nearly \$500 for the family. We also gave them many food items and clothing to help them during this trying time.

Mrs. Karen Quillin, the music teacher of grades 3-8, again shared her special talents by directing the play "No Vacancy" with our junior high, beginner, and advanced bands. The kindergarten performed the Christmas pageant. This truly helped everyone receive the gift of Christmas peace.

EMMITSBURG ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWS

by Dianne L. Walbrecker

A cinquain is a poem with 5 lines written in the following structure:

Line: One word that is a person or place or thing

Line 2: Two words that tell about the first word

Line 3: Three words that tell how the first word moves or looks

Line 4: Two or four workds that tell something special about the first word.

Line 5: One word, the same as line 1.

Following are several examples of cinquains written by 5th grade students of Mrs. Progar and 4th grade students of Mrs. Reed.

Pig Pink body Fat, small, ugly Curly tail Pig

Michael Bradshaw

Turkey
Turkey dinner
Looks like chicken
Tastes good
Turkey

Ben Kieffer

Piranha
Dangerous, scaly
Swims, floats, sways
Sharp teeth
Piranha

Andy Phillips

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Mike Hobbs

BUDGET MAY CUT SEVERAL PROGRAMS

A recent memo from Frederick County's Dr. Daniel Gadra to all the school principals and PTA presidents contained a strongly worded message about the "zero growth" budget proposed for the area schools. According to Karla White, a member of the Frederick County Parents for Music Education, "the gist of the memo was that if Dr. Gadra is held to a zero-growth budget by the county commissioners, he will be forced to seriously look at cutting the following programs: 5th grade instrumental program; visual and performing arts; Roundmeadow, Greentop program; and the 9th grade athletic program."

"As an advocate of music, my concern is that discontinuing the 5th grade program will cut the root out of the county program. With the new middle school curriculum changes and the four period day, it will be increasingly difficult for even the most interested music students to remain in the program. It will be even more difficult for the student entering middle school to begin an instrument," added Ms. White.

Parents interested in letting their opinions be known about the zero-growth budget proposal may attend the upcoming budget hearing on January 23rd to be held beginning at 7 pm at Monocacy Middle School. Other ways to respond include writing letters or sending faxes to Dr. Gadra, to members of the Frederick County Board of Education, to the Frederick County Commissioners, and/or letters to the editor's departments of all local newspapers.

READERS' IDEAS SOUGHT

Abe Lincoln said it: "...a government of the people, by the people, and for the people shall not perish" We wish he were talking about the *Dispatch* that, as a community newspaper, is doing pretty well in the "for the people" part. We are a little weak in the by the people and of the people departments, however.

What we're getting at, folks, is that participation by the people and of the people is absolutely critical to the function and success of any business, political, religious, or social organization; the *Dispatch* included. All organizations are based on relationships. In publishing this paper we want to focus on the reader/writer relationship.

The *Dispatch* is beginning its second year with this issue. We will concentrate more on the reader/writer connection as we develop our coverage of the community news and life. Readers are our customers—our reason to be. How to find out what readers want and like to read is a puzzlement. Let's talk about it. What suggestions can you make about improving our coverage of regional happenings?

What you can do is <u>THINK</u> about the kinds of articles you would like to see included in the paper—church news, youth news, school news, weddings, births, a calendar, political, special people, special events, etc.—the things *YOU* like to read about or news items you want to share. Think about things you don't want to read or don't like. Then, <u>CONTACT</u> the *Dispatch* by phone, 301-447-6275, or FAX, 301-447-6275; or write, 10635 Harney Road, Emmitsburg, MD 21727. Talk to any of the writers who contribute special articles—Ann Marshall, Dianne Walbrecker, Emma Kenney, Shelly Chevalier, Val Mentzer, Anna Margaret Martin, Kate Warthen—or give Bo and Jean a call and come out to our house for a cup of tea and tell us what you think.

The *Dispatch* is the channel of communication within this region, a place where your voices can be heard. Sitting quietly in your homes being spectators has proven to be an ineffecive strategy. Through *Letters to the Editor* you can share your ideas and concerns. This community is experiencing the inevitable changes of growth. Your lives are being affected by new or recurring issues that need discussion. Solving problems and fine-tuning solutions to situations old or new requires respectful and open sharing of ideas and viewpoints.

If Abraham Lincoln had been an Emmitsburgian he might have said, "A *Dispatch* for the people, of the people, and by the people shall not perish if readers contribute and share information about community concerns." He would even write an article for the *Dispatch*, I'll wager. We hope that you share the publishers' vision that this community newspaper is an important and vital element of community life.

Report Card

How do you as a reader rate the *Dispatch*.? Give us a grade. We can take it. We would also appreciate any suggestions you think would improve the paper.

Are you:	00	A
PLEASED	00	В
NEUTRAL		C
ANNOYED	00	D
VICTIMIZED		F

Mark this report card and attach a note with any comments you wish to make. You don't have to sign your name.

If you are "bummed out" by the new postal rates you can drop off the report card at any of these locations: Jubilee, the Town Office, the Emmitsburg Public Library, the Emmitsburg Pharmacy, or Don Geiger's office on West Main Street.

"I hate careless flattery, the kind that exhausts you in your effort to believe it." William Mizner

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