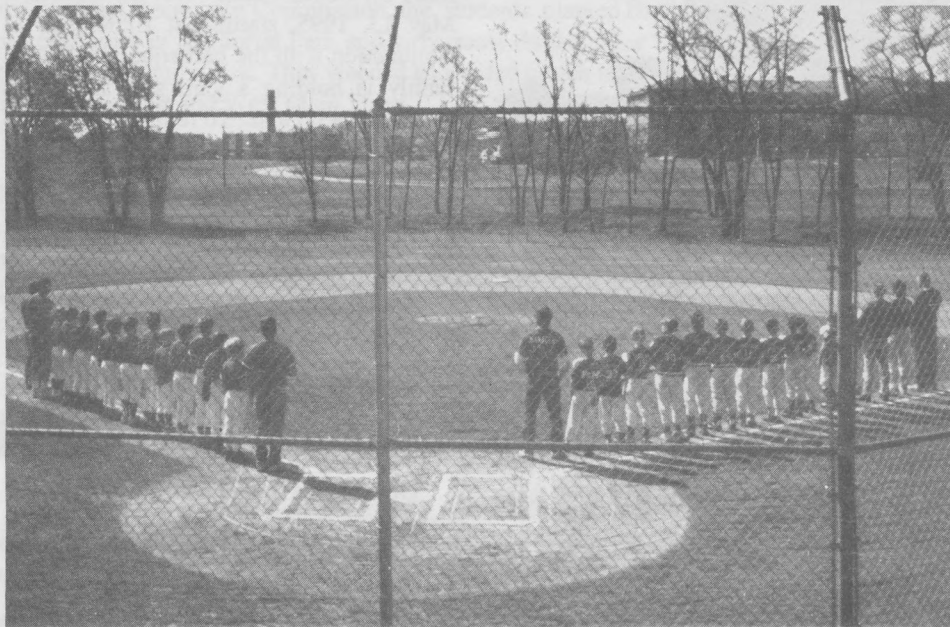


DISPATCH

Vol. III, No. 5

A Regional Publication - Gaining Strength Through Each Other

May 1995



Opening Ceremonies for the 1995 Little League Season

A Dispatch Photo

OPENING DAY FOR LITTLE LEAGUE

Emmitsburg Little League had its official opening day games on Saturday. It was the veritable picture-perfect day; the breeze blowing in from center field had the flags snapping, the field a bright immaculate green and the brown infield awaiting the games to be played. Roy Wivell, the coaches, parents, and volunteers had done their job well. The "Star Spangled Banner," a moment of prayerful remembrance of the victims of the Oklahoma tragedy, especially the children, then umpire Dave Bushman took charge—Play ball!

To some, baseball is a game of statistics, and up in the press box Justine Ridenour was mastering the hieroglyphics of scoring the

game while Steve Reed announced. For the 30th year Bob Sayler was hawking hot dogs at Sayler's Stand. Commissioner Weaver (Parks and Recreation) zipped out the first ball—almost over the plate—without benefit of a warm up. It was all there. The season had officially begun.

We went to see the Orioles play the Dodgers. There were hits, runs, errors, trials and tribulations, youthful enthusiasm, parental encouragements, and the Dodgers prevailed 2 to 1. For more news of the day see the story filed on page 5 by Cub Reporter Ben Hanning who interviewed some of the players.

ELECTION RESULTS

Mayor Carr and Commissioner Dave Copenhaver were reelected April 25, and Rosario Benvenuti was chosen to fill the other commissioner's seat. Of the approximate 333 registered voters, 53 (nearly 20%) voted. "Spin-doctors" might say that the voting percentage is nearly the national average and the turn-out was very good considering the candidates were running unopposed in an "off-year" election. Election judge Alice Boyle said, "We're doing better than we did in last year's election when only 30 voted."—and that's telling it like it is. [If you think we're making progress, see "100 Years Ago In This Place," p. 4]

Each elected official capsulized his agenda. The mayor sees the water problem and the community center as important projects. Commissioner Copenhaver is concerned about attracting businesses and local employment opportunities. Commissioner Benvenuti sees activities for the town youth as important.

Local Businessman Responds to Oklahoma Disaster

Bill Duke, owner of the Emmitsburg Getty service station, was deeply touched by the recent events in Oklahoma City. He wanted to use his marketing skills to raise money for the disaster relief, and in a very short period he had in place all the necessary ingredients for a fund raiser at his South Seton Avenue business: raffles, prizes, 2400 free hot dogs to be sold for a dollar apiece, volunteers to man the refreshment booths, and the announcement that all profits from the sale of gasoline over a three-day period (April 28-30) would go to the *Emmitsburg for America* fund established for (Please see DUKE on page 2)

TOWN MEETING

New officials seated

Retiring Commissioner President John Hollinger called the meeting to order, and as his last official act, administered the oath of office to mayor-elect William Carr. Carr then swore in newly elected commissioners David Copenhaver and Rosario Benvenuti.

Mayor Carr presented Hollinger with a plaque containing a key to the town and referred to him as "Mr. Emmitsburg" because of his years of service in many different capacities. "This plaque comes from the town officials, and by them, the citizens of Emmitsburg, and is a memento of their appreciation and respect," Mayor Carr told the former president.

The reorganization of the council was the first order of business. Commissioner Chris Weaver was chosen as the new president of the council. Commissioner Thomas Gingel was re-elected as Secretary/Treasurer. Mayor Carr made the following assignments of responsibilities: Commissioner Weaver will continue as Chairman of the Parks and Recreation Committee; Rosario Benvenuti will serve as chairman of the Streets Department; David Copenhaver will continue his duties with the Sewer Department and Planning and Zoning Committee; and Commissioner Gingel will continue as head of the Water Department.

Mayor Carr commended local businessman Bill Duke, who organized a money raising campaign for victims of the Oklahoma City disaster. Carr noted that as of Monday morning Duke had raised in excess of \$4,000. "The effort is ongoing," Carr said, "and he continues to receive a lot of help from the citizens and businesses of Emmitsburg." The council voted to donate up to \$500 in parking meter collections to the disaster fund.



*A Dispatch Photo
Hollinger receives retirement plaque.*

Carr also reported that he will work with Seton Center to consider and explore ways of helping them find a new place of operation. "Child care is a major consideration in today's society and a worthwhile cause," said Carr. "The Sisters have provided affordable care and have been an integral part of the community and it will be a good thing to help them."

Resident Joan Boyle expressed dismay at the voter turn-out in the last election and a concern for the election process in general. Boyle urged the council to consider ways of increasing interest in the election system and suggested several possible strategies including a public forum, greater involvement of political parties, and an improved information flow regarding candidates and their platforms.

Town Manager Yvette Semler reported the town has received \$100,000 for replacement of 4,000 linear feet of the sewer line along North Seton Ave. They also expect to receive a loan for \$140,000 from the state. The loan will be for 20 years at 3% interest. The work is expected to be completed by August.

It was announced there is a vacancy on the Parks and Recreation Committee and anyone wishing to serve can submit their name to the mayor or Chris Weaver.

John S. Hollinger, Sr.

In recognition and acknowledgement of your many years of service to the community, as well as your tireless efforts to make Emmitsburg a better place to live, this plaque is presented to you with great appreciation from the town council, staff, and the citizens of Emmitsburg.

Inscription on plaque presented to Hollinger.

Chicken Barbeque and Yard Sale to Benefit the Marty Wivell Medical fund.

by Jim Wivell

The Emmitsburg Lions Club will hold a chicken barbeque across from the Getty Mart on South Seton Ave. on Saturday, May 13, 1995, starting at 10:30 a.m. In conjunction with the barbeque, the Wivell family is holding a yard sale and raffle starting at 8:00 a.m. To rent a space for \$5 (table included), please call Rachael Wivell at (717)642-8914.

All proceeds from the day's benefits will go towards medical expenses for Marty Wivell. Marty is an Emmitsburg area farmer whose leg was severed in a corn-picker accident in January.

(DUKE from page 1)
the relief effort.

Duke wants to feel confident that all of the money raised will go directly to aid victims of the bombing. To ensure this, Bill Duke will fly to Oklahoma City at his own expense to confer with officials there as to the best use of the funds. He has already talked with some on the phone. He will be accompanied on the trip by Emmitsburg's resident deputy Cpl. Jerry Horner. "Others who would like to come along with us are welcome," Duke said.

The real story of the matter is *heart*. Local businesses, individuals, and other commercial enterprises from around the area have given generously to the effort. Vendors have donated many items to be raffled off with all income going into the fund. "There has been a real outpouring," Duke said. "The whole town's energy seems to be behind this effort. I just said "help" and people showed up. It's almost taking on a life of its own and I hope it spreads to other towns... all over the county," he said.

There is no way right now to guess how much money will be raised over this three-day period but "there will be full disclosure of where every dollar goes," Duke said. "I get nothing out of this," he added referring to the money.

Students Help Town Celebrate Arbor Day

Students from Emmitsburg Elementary School and Mother Seton School met in front of the Town Hall on Thursday, April 27 at 12:30 p.m. to work together in the town's Arbor Day celebration. Under the direction of Commissioner Chris Weaver, chairman of the Parks and Recreation Commission, the students planted Bradford pear trees in Memorial Park and virburnum shrubs along the fence in Community Park. They weeded and added mulch to all the tree wells on East and West Main Street.

The students, many of them wearing gardening gloves, were divided into two groups: those who would plant trees and those who would pull weeds. The larger groups then formed into groups of four, two students from each school. Armed with a shovel, a black plastic bag for weeds, and a bucket of mulch, each group quickly got to work with the promise of a snack when all was done.

Rick Krietz and Jim Click of the Town Maintenance Dept. followed close by with a truck full of mulch and a helping hand when needed.

The Main Street crew was assisted by Town Manager Yvette Semler and newly elected commissioner Rosario Benvengi. Mothers and teachers accompanied the students and soon found their job



A Dispatch Photo
Students weeding and mulching tree wells on Main Street

was helping to decide what was a weed and what was a plant. Dandelions were no problem, but the small creeping vine, *vinca minor*, planted around some of the trees, sometimes failed the recognition test. (Homeowners who find some missing from their tree well, and wish to have it replaced, should call the town office.)

Commissioner Weaver told the students that he would like the trees they planted in Memorial Park to be in memory of those killed in the Oklahoma City bombing. "A lot of people are doing something in their memory," Weaver told the young people sitting on the hillside in the bright afternoon sunlight, "and this is a little something we can do here in Emmitsburg." The students agreed it was a "good idea." He thanked them for the job they had done and said, "When you are my age you can bring your kids down here and tell them you planted these trees." That gave them something to think about and questions followed as to "how fast" and "how big" the trees would grow. Their Arbor Day celebration in the park ended with the promised snack.

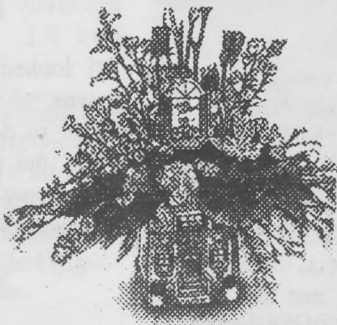


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FIVE MINUTES WITH... Prof. O'Toole

The Weather Prognosticator

Professor William O'Toole, chairman of the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science at Mount Saint Mary's, is known to most of us for his work in long-range weather forecasting. Professor O'Toole also serves as the science editor of the *Hagerstown Town and Country Almanac* and makes long-range weather predictions 12 to 18 months in advance. The kind of predictions that you can read right along with your seed catalogs during the winter.

Prof. O'Toole, How DO you do that?

O'Toole: "Actually my work involves more than just weather. All astronomical data from sunrise/set times to moon phases to eclipses and all calendar-related info are my responsibility. But "everybody talks about the weather." I use as prognosticators three tools: the Herschel Charts (hundreds of years old), which relate weather to the time of change of phases of the moon, sunspot cycles, and weather cycles observed by my predecessors.

What part of the prediction process is science?

O'Toole: "Many would say 'None of it!' The National Weather Service has done stud-

ies that prove the moon's phases influence precipitation patterns. I think the causal link is through atmospheric tides — which are, of course, in a larger range than oceanic tides or land-mass tides. Did you know that in a six-hour period standing in a cornfield in Kansas during full moon, the land beneath your feet rises a full foot? It's been measured by satellites."

What part is folklore? Does folklore reflect science?

O'Toole: "Much of it is folklore. The problem is, the Herschel Chart originated during the 'little ice age,' when from about 1600 to 1820 there were practically no sunspots at all. When sunspots returned, the earth started to warm up and the Herschel Chart (I have found) does not work well when the sunspot numbers are high. The trouble is, today people just don't pay much attention to that sort of thing—not in the USA anyway."

Does your wife believe you when you tell her to carry an umbrella?

O'Toole: "Yes. My wife, Cathy Bodin, is a great fan and a wonderful source of support. She also helps me escape and get out of town when too many reporters start calling."

100 Years Ago "In This Place"
from the *Emmitsburg Chronicle*

The Corporation Election

May 10, 1895 - The annual election for a Burgess and six Commissioners to manage the municipal affairs of Emmitsburg during the ensuing year was held at the Firemen's Hall, on Monday, between the hours of 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. There being no special issue at stake, very little interest was taken in the election. There were three tickets in the field, none of which were nominated at a public meeting and consequently the voters did not know who the candidates were until they appeared at the voting place and examined the tickets. The old Burgess and board of Commissioners - with the exception of one Commissioner - were re-elected. The number of votes cast was sixty-three.

A Pink Tea

May 10, 1895 - One of the most delightful social events of the season occurred Thursday afternoon at the home of the Misses Simonton, in this place. They entertained their friends at a 4 o'clock tea assisted by their sister, Mrs. Joseph Buffington. The house was beautifully and tastefully decorated with palms, white lilac, lilies of the valley, etc. The tables and their appointments were in pink, which lent a very pleasing effect to the scene. Mrs. Augustus Hack gracefully presided at the tea table, as did Mrs. R.L. Annan discourse sweet music. All looked charming in their handsome gowns, which would be impossible for the writer to describe. After a pleasant mingling, the guests dispersed, carrying with them many pleasant thoughts of the beautiful occasion.

Memorial Day Treat

May 31, 1895 Through the kindness of Messrs. Rowe and Hoke, the *Chronicle* force was given a Memorial Day treat in the shape of several glasses of delicious strawberry ice cream, for which we return our hearty thanks. It was the finest strawberry ice cream we have tasted this summer, and it was so refreshing that it almost makes our mouth water to think of it. If Messrs. Rowe and Hoke keep up the quality of their ice cream they will surely do a good business in that hue this summer.

The Emmitsburg Dispatch

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Jean Smith Liddell, Jeanne Angleberger, Barbara Steele, Ben Hanning, Joan Boyle, Joyce Wivell, Anna Martin, Marta Hillis, Jim Wivell, Emma Keeney, Kate Warthen, Christine Maccabee, Val Mentzer, Jack Deatherage, Jr.,

Advertising and copy deadlines are the 3rd Friday of the month prior to publication. Neither the publisher nor the editor will be liable for misinformation, misprinting, or typographical errors. The publishers reserve the right to edit any submitted material.

The Emmitsburg Dispatch
10635 Harney Road
Emmitsburg, MD 21727
301-447-6275

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editors,

My parents and I enjoy reading the Regional Dispatch, and recently while reading it, I noticed something. Sixth graders at Mother Seton School were said to be learning about the formula VOLTSxWATTS to test their strength on a special bicycle. I like to work with electronics, and that is very basic, so I immediately realized something was wrong. Instead of VOLTSxWATTS, the formula should have been $P=IE$ or $WATTS=AMPSxVOLTS$ or $E=IR$ which is $VOLTS=AMPSxOHMS$. Just thought you'd like to know. From Adam Streeter, age 12, St. Louis, MO.

(Editors note: As a past science teacher I should have noticed what you did, Adam. Thanks for setting us straight.)

Little League Thanks Sponsors

By Marta Hillis

Emmitsburg's Little League would like to acknowledge the following businesses and organizations for their team sponsorships. The generous support given by these sponsors has enabled our league to extend baseball & softball playing opportunities to all interested youth in our community.

Senior League

White Sox - The Ott House
Orioles - Sons of American Legion,
 Emmitsburg Veterinary Clinic
Colts - McDonald's, Inc.

Major League

Giants - Knights of Columbus
Cardinals - Emmitsburg VFW
Red Sox - Emmitsburg American Legion
Yankees - Borderline 4 x 4
Dodgers - Indian Lookout Conservation Club
Orioles - Taney Supply, Inc.

Softball

Angels - Topper's Insurance
Pink Panthers - Friend of the Family, J.W. Walters

Minor League

Expos - W.S Drywall, Inc.
Tigers - Borderline 4 x 4
Astros - E-Z-Fill Getty, Inc.
Grizzlies - TV Video

T-ball

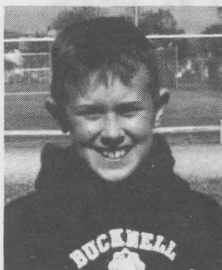
Giants - Quality Tire Service
Mets - Emmitsburg Panes
Phillies - Emmitsburg Pharmacy
Braves - Samuel K. Wivell, Builder

Little League would also like to thank the Town Office for their help in making our ball field expansion plans a reality. To all who helped, especially Commissioner Chris Weaver and the town crew, Rick Krietz and Jim Click, please accept a big Little League Thank You! See you at the ball fields.

Another Thank You

The senior citizens of the senior complex at Lincoln on the Park would like to thank Bill Boyd, Jr., for the nice bridge he built over the gutter at the complex, Saturday, April 8. Again, thank you, Bill, very much. Seniors.

PLAY BALL! - OPENING DAY AT MEMORIAL



Ben Hanning

Saturday, April 29 was a bright and sunny day, perfect for the opening day of Emmitsburg's Little League 1995 season. Chris Weaver, the Emmitsburg Park & Recreation Commissioner, threw the opening pitch as the Emmitsburg Dodgers played the (Taneytown) Orioles. Mr. Weaver, who played in Little League as a kid, said, "It's an honor that they asked me to do that. I feel privileged that they gave me the opportunity to be part of their opening game."

I spoke with some of the Dodgers players to find out what they liked about Little League. First I interviewed Ronnie Divil, an outfielder for the Dodgers. I interviewed him because he is a good friend of mine. Ronnie likes to play Little League a lot

because "It's for big kids." Ronnie has played in the league for about a year and a half. In that time he never hit a home run but he told me he hit close to one. I asked him who he thought was going to win. He said, "We are!" and from the dugout you could hear the team saying stuff like "Yea, we'll win!" and "Yea!" I agreed with the team! Ronnie started playing Little League because his Mom made him!

Next I interviewed Ben Hillis who plays first base and pitcher. His favorite Major League team is the White Socks and his favorite Major League player is Frank Thomas. He has played Little League since he was about six.

I know the team will do very well this year so let's all wish them good luck!

Ben Hanning is in the 4th grade at Mother Seton School.



Ben Hanning interviews "The Boys of Summer."

A Dispatch Photo

Parishioner Called to Mission

By Ann Marshall

Frances Bittle of St. Anthony's in response to God's call to dedicate her time and personal skills in a foreign mission, will serve with the Mercy Sisters in Guyana, S.A. as a clinical instructor. We offer Fran

our prayerful remembrance and supportive words.

Her address is:
 Frances Bittle, Missionary
 St. Joseph's Mercy Hospital
 130-132 Parade St.
 P.O. Box 10389
 Georgetown, Guyana
 S.A.

CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS

Senior Citizen News

by Anna Margaret Martin

This is the merry, merry month of May. The flowers and trees are beautiful. The lawns are green and the gnats and bugs are "bugging" us already. Remember the days of the May Dances at the school - Mrs. Scott's 6th grade were the Maypole dancers, and the May queen and her court were "decked" out with lilacs, tulips, and spring flowers. These were the "good ole days."

Here at the center we still are enjoying the "good days" with fun, food, and friendship. May will be a busy month for us. We're expecting the school children as follows:

Tuesday, May 2 - Mrs. Rice's 1st Grade;
 Tuesday, May 23 - Mrs. Hise's 3rd Grade
 Tuesday, May 30 - Mrs. Menoglio's 3rd Grade.

This concludes the programs from the Emmitsburg Elementary School for this year. Their programs have been interesting for all of us and the children have been a pleasure to us. We'll look forward to next fall.

Remember When . . .



Students at the Emmitsburg School danced around the Maypole in 1938. This photo was taken by the late Dr. Cadle from the school building on S. Seton Ave.

Activities are as follows:

May 4 & 18 - Bingo, 1 p.m.
 May 11 & 25 - "500" card party, 1 p.m.
 May 16 - Meeting Day - "Blind Bingo"
 May 9 - Nutrition with Rachel Ford,
 12:45 p.m.; Trip to Frederick, 1:30 p.m.
 May 10 - Craft Workshop and coffee and
 donuts, 9 a.m.-11 a.m.; Slide Presentation on
 Senior Services, 1 p.m.

A Food and Yard Sale will be held at the center on Saturday, May 20th from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Come join us.

I want to thank all who helped make our night card party in April a success and let you know that we will host another night card party on Wednesday, June 14 at 6:30 p.m. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. Cost \$2.00. Everyone a winner. Come and bring your friends. We have air conditioning.

Don't forget our trips: "Sight and Sound" to see "Noah," Sept. 6. Price \$50. No reservations after May 31. Call Anna Margaret at 447-6253; Totem Pole Playhouse, Saturday, August 19, leaving center at 12:45 p.m. Dinner on your own at Bonanza in Gettysburg. Cost \$20. Call the center for information.

Emmitsburg Arts League To Hold Watercolor Workshop

Well-known Baltimore artist Rebecca Pearl will conduct a watercolor workshop at the Emmitsburg Community Center on Saturday, May 20, at 9:30 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. Ms. Pearl is an award-winning watercolorist and pastelist, and a member of the Baltimore Watercolor Society. She has had many solo shows locally, as well as in Mexico City and Santa Fe, New Mexico. A versatile and expressive artist, she is currently working on commissions for the University of Maryland and the Baltimore Symphony.

Emphasizing color, composition, and sound technical aspects, she will teach through her own demonstration painting and then assist with students' development, ending with a critique.

For registration call Linda Postelle, president of the Emmitsburg Art League, at Her Studio Gallery, (301) 447-2866. Registrations can also be made by calling (301) 447-4459.

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Friday 9 - 7 Saturday 9 - 2

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Our Library

by Kate Warthen

The Emmitsburg Library has been in a flurry of activity these past few weeks. Books everywhere - into the halls - into both extra rooms - and more books to be pulled. The mysteries have yet to be weeded.

There are still many bargains to be had - just come in and browse. You are sure to find a book or two you want to take home. I see lots of the same people coming in for still more books. I bought some myself. They are bargains at \$.50 per hardback, and \$.25 for paperback.

The Readers Theater on April 25 brought several close friends and relatives of the actors who read the parts of the characters in Chekhov's *The Marriage Proposal*: Michael Cuseo played the Papa; Karen Adelsberger played Natasha; and Jonathan Ashworth played the Suitor. It was a good evening with Anton Chekhov.



A Dispatch Photo

The visit of Amelia Bedelia, portrayed by Peggy Flynn, on April 22, was a huge success. Twenty-three children were in attendance. Seventeen adults also attended.

LADIES AUXILIARY OF VIGILANT HOSE COMPANY

By Joyce Wivell

The Ladies Auxiliary of the Vigilant Hose Company is sponsoring a Gianni's Pizza kit sale. Orders will be taken through May 8. Pizzas will be available on May 19. To place an order, see any member of the Auxiliary.

The Ladies Auxiliary will be sponsoring Old Fashioned Bingo on Thursday, May 18, at the Emmitsburg Fire Hall. Please note the location change. Doors open at 6 p.m. and bingo begins at 7 p.m. An expanded line of refreshments will be available. Prizes for Old Fashioned Bingo consist of baskets of groceries for regular games with a large jackpot of prizes given away at the end of the evening. Bring the family and come out and enjoy a fun evening.

The Ladies Auxiliary would like to take this opportunity to thank the Emmitsburg Ambulance Company for having rented their building to us at our convenience. With the completion of the expansion and renovations at the Fire Hall, we will now be holding our monthly bingos at the Fire Hall.

The April 14 bake sale and raffle was a great success! Thanks to all who supported this fund-raising effort.

The Auxiliary will be sponsoring a Bingo Bonanza on Saturday, June 3, at the Fire Hall. Tickets are \$20 in advance or \$25 at the door. For more information, or to purchase tickets, please call Jo Ann Boyd at 447-2297, or Patty Kuykendall at 447-6370.

The Ladies Auxiliary is always looking for new members. If you are interested in joining the Auxiliary, please call Dot Davis at 447-2403. Meetings are held the second Thursday of each month in the meeting room at the Fire Hall.

Free Activities Offered at Up-County Family Center for Moms and Their Children Under 3

If you're sitting at home with your infant or toddler under 3 and wondering what to do, let us suggest the Up-County Family Center. We provide activities to do with your child, peer support, field trips, special classes and events, education programs, and many more activities. All of these are free and not income-based—they are for everyone. Give us a call and see what we're all about. The Up-County Family Center is located on South Seton Avenue, Emmitsburg, MD. Call 447-2810 for more information.

Emmitsburg Arts League To Present Video

The Emmitsburg Arts League will hold its May meeting on the 11th at 7 p.m. in the Media Room of the Emmitsburg Library. Everyone is welcome.

During this meeting we will feature a video, "Understanding Water Color Through Shape, Pattern, and Design," by popular watercolorist Skip Lawrence. Skip has a national reputation as a fine artist and teacher.

Watch for our flyer announcing the Artists Studio Tour in the Emmitsburg area June 3-4. For more information please call 447-2866.

Open House Set for May 13 at the Emmitsburg Ambulance Company

by Jeanne Angleberger

The Emmitsburg Ambulance Company is hosting an "Open House" on Saturday, May 13, from 1-5 p.m. at the company's quarters, 300 South Seton Ave. The event is held in commemoration of Emergency Medical Services (EMS) week (May 14-20) and National Safe Kids' Week, an all-exclusive program for children's safety. The latter includes fire safety, EMS awareness, use of drug and alcohol, child abuse, and stranger alertness.

This is an opportunity for citizens to communicate with company personnel and become more aware of the contribution they make to the community.

Several public agencies are participating in the safety-oriented activities, such as fire, police, and ambulance services. Emergency and fire personnel will demonstrate the rescue of a farm machinery accident patient. Also, demonstrations of generic CPR and ambulance tours will be conducted.

Registration of Red Cross CPR and First Aid is available. Numerous educational fliers are provided for your convenience. Refreshments will be served during the Open House.

DePaul Street Singers



Back row, left to right: Julianne M. La Croce, Sandy L. Soffee, Eileen A. Emerson
Front row, left to right: Vincent J. Perticone, Lester E. Zimmerman, Harold L. Ditzler

The DePaul Singers to Present Concert of Broadway Tunes on Sunday, May 7

The Rev. Dr. David W. Shaum presents The DePaul Singers in a concert, "Assorted Flavors," on Sunday, May 7, 1995, at 3 p.m., for the benefit of Saint Joseph's Church, Emmitsburg, MD. The program will be held in the new social hall.

The recently formed group of six talented professionals will be heard in an array of solos, duets, and ensemble pieces from a number of Broadway and popular composers. The artists are Harold L. Ditzler, Julianne M. La Croce, Vincent J. Perticone, Eileen A. Emerson, Lester E. Zimmerman, and Sandy L. Soffe. Mrs. Bonnie J. Sanders is the accompanist.

Tickets are six dollars per person and are available at Saint Joseph's Rectory and at the door the afternoon of the concert. Admission includes refreshments of assorted ice cream and home-made cookies served by Mrs. Margaret Myers and the ladies of the B.V.M. Sodality. For additional information call (301) 447-2326.



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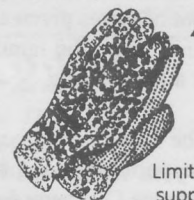
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Biographical Sketches of The De Paul Singers - Who's Who

by Joan Boyle

Julianne M. La Croce covers the spectrum of theatre. She has produced such plays as *Up The Down Staircase* and *Ten Little Indians* at Prospect Hall High School where she serves as Guidance Director and Chair of the English Department. She has performed *Gigi* and *East Lynne* with the Hanover Community Players, sung with the Mount Saint Mary's Singers, and she still finds time to serve as lector in St. Joseph's Church.

Sandy L. Soffe received her vocal instruction from the University of Cincinnati Conservatory of Music. Since then, she has been very active with teaching private vocal lessons and has sung professionally in various night clubs throughout our tri-state area. During her thirteen-year tenure as director of the St. Joseph's Church choir, Sandy used many of her own original compositions for performance. At present, she is devoting time to writing and arranging her own gospel music, as well as serving as director of the Emmitsburg Community Chorus.


Eileen Emerson sang soprano with the Mount Saint Mary's Singers during her four years in college. She has performed in many productions including *Tartuffe*, *Grease*, *Cabaret*, and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Eileen was an active member of the Sock-n-Buskin Club at MSM. Since then, she has performed with the Wildwood Summer Group in Bethesda, where she sings with the St. Jane de Chantal Choir. Eileen commutes from Washington, D.C., to continue singing with the DePaul Street Singers.

Vincent J. Perticone covered all bases in the choral world from *Die Fledermaus* to *Carmen* to *Choral Fantasy* with pianist Hans Reichterhauser and the National Symphony Orchestra. He has performed his own original music in night clubs, hotels, lounges, radio, and TV. Vince enjoys singing sacred music in the roles of cantor, soloist, and chorus member. He has received the Felix Mendelssohn Award in recognition of his songwriting talent. Vince loves to sing at such festive occasions as bull and oyster roasts, wedding parties, crab and shrimp feasts, fund raisers, and business meetings.

Lester E. Zimmerman has been singing for the past 13 years as president of the St. Catherine Laboure's Church choir, directed by our own Father Shaum. Lester has performed in many musicals, including *Sound of Music* and others by Cole Porter and George Gershwin. He devotes much of his time and singing talent to the chanting of the *Easter Passion of the Four Evangelists* and he is especially proud of his chanting the *Passion of St. John* for which he had to master Latin. As a member of the DePaul Street Singers, Lester commutes from Harrisburg.

Harold L. Ditzler has been singing since his early school days. If ever there is a singer needed, Harold can be depended upon to fill the bill. He has been a stalwart member of the Emmitsburg Community Chorus for the past 20 years; a member of the Band Boosters Club of Biglerville; the Apple Core Band; the Sunrise Singers; and St. Joseph's Church choir. Harold says his most memorable singing request was as Minister of Song at the first Mass of Father Robert Gillelan III. He still has time for amateur genealogy while he manages his antique shop. (This writer vividly remembers when Harold Ditzler saved a local Fourth of July program by being the whole Community Chorus - a rain date caused a no-show.)

Bonnie J. Sanders had been the piano accompanist during her high school days when she performed during the years from 1974 to 1976. Since that time she has been constantly in demand. Bonnie accompanied the Emmitsburg Community Chorus from 1978 to 1983. She was with the Mount Saint Mary's Singers intermittently since 1982 and continuously since 1989. In a locality of few instrumentalists, Bonnie is one of our treasures.



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ROCKY RIDGE

By Emma Keeney

Happy birthday wishes to Rosie Stambaugh, Pauline Duble, Dale Shields, Josh Ballew, Wesley Burrier, Robert (Bob) Peomroy, May Burrier, Amber Humerick, Charles Keeney, Jerry Martin and Ben Sanders.

Belated birthday wishes to Mary Louise Peomroy, Lori Angleberger, Marlene Danaher.

Happy anniversary wishes to Ronald and Diana Hahn on their 2nd, May 1; Bernie and Dawn Hobbs, May 5; Michelle and David Dinterman on their 1st, May 14; and Bill and Regina Dinterman on their 24th, May 15.

Cruisin' the Ocean Blue - Recently, David and Debbie Wiles along with Jessie and Rose Ensor and their family returned to their homes in Rocky Ridge after a 3-day cruise to the Bahamas aboard Norwegian Cruise Line *Seaward*. Departing from Miami, the group spent one day touring Nassau before heading on to the cruise line's private island where they enjoyed a day of sun bathing, volleyball, swimming and an island

cookout. The group booked their cruise through Antietam Travel Service of Frederick.

The Mount Tabor Youth group sponsored the Easter Egg Hunt April 15. Many children enjoyed the hunt. The winners were:

Ages	Most Eggs	Lucky Eggs
1 - 2	Carrie Gelwicks	Joey Brown
3-4	Dougie Seiss	Chad McNair
5-6	Randy Gelwicks	Jeanette Miller
7-9	Ben Sanders	Chad Wolfe
10-12	Michael Hobbs	Erin Hobbs

Easter visitors at the home of Cora and Carl Setherly: Gary Setherly and friend Alice, Falling Waters, West Virginia; Debbie, Keith, and Kortney Davis, Sabillasville; Jeff and Karen Ferdock, Frederick, and Guy Pittinger, Rocky Ridge.

The sale that was to be held May 6 at the Mt. Tabor Park has been cancelled. Upcoming Mt. Tabor Park Activities: June 3, Sunday School Festival, 4 p.m.; June 17, Bingo, 7 p.m.; July 1, Breakfast, 7 a.m., Tractor pull, 10 a.m.; July 29, Bingo, 7 p.m.

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Rocky Ridge Church of Brethren News

Rocky Ridge Fire Company News

As most people know April 29 was the last night of Bingo at the fire hall until October, 30. We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their support.

A sportsman night will be held at the Rocky Ridge fire hall on May 13.

The Annual Rocky Ridge Carnival will be held Aug. 14 -18. The parade will take place on Wed., Aug. 16 at 7 p. m.

Mt. Tabor Quilters

Just a few weeks ago we were waxing our skis to make them fly and waxing our quilt thread to make our needles fly. Also waxing our floors to make the dust fly. Pardon me, but yours truly is "waxing poetic" as the phrase goes.

Inspector 13 is on the mailing list for many quilt-related publications and the mailbox has been full lately. Most of the leaflets and brochures suggest there is a newer, faster, easier way to make quilts; however most photographs show "old-fashioned" quilts and quilts dating to the 18th century.

Mt. Tabor Quilters haven't bent very far into the wind-stream of modern quilting. We still like to use scrap-bag fabrics—occasionally leaning to the co-ordinated color trends of today. We hand stitch and hand quilt.

Current projects in progress are Sunbonnet Sue, Wedding Ring, and Flower Garden. Old favorites such as Ohio Star, Log Cabin, and Spider Web are in the future. We do take orders for special design quilts or wall hangings. Have a good summer and come visit us some Tuesday from 9:30 a.m. until 2 p.m. We'd like to meet you and we're only a few "blocks" from wherever you are.

Rocky Ridge Church of the Brethren has for sale church replicas made by Cats Meow. Cost is \$16 each. Each replica comes with a history of the church. For more information call Pat Free at 271-7425.

Children's Day Service will be held Sunday, June 11.

HELP WANTED: Taking applications for a part-time "Girl Friday" to help with clerical work, customer service, and proofreading. CPI Printing, 107 S. Seton Ave., Emmitsburg. 301-447-2333.

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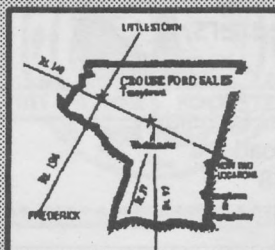
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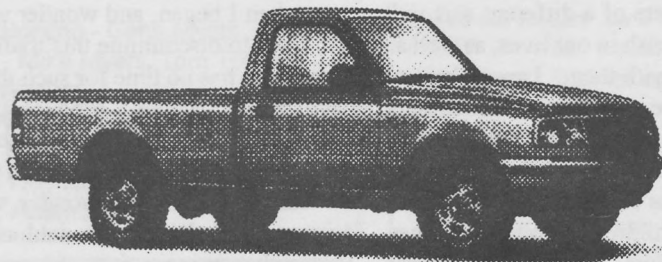
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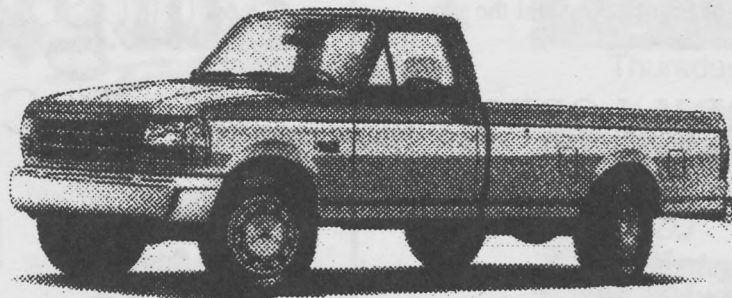
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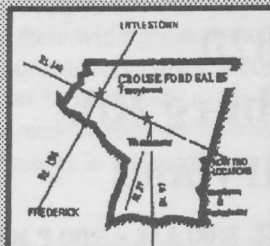
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Garden Ramblings.....April 1995

"Diggin' the Dahlias"

by Christine Maccabee

Planting the dahlia tubers in the spring is a bit like digging potatoes in the fall...the shovel, some muscle, good sturdy digging shoes, and lots of determination being the primary ingredients. It is a sacrifice of love, done each spring by my aging parents until this year when they finally had to give it up. Now, in the prime of my life, I do this same arduous task on my own property, and as I begin to dig this morning I ask myself "WHY?" ...why do I feel I must follow in my parents' footsteps, driven by some deep, unexplainable primordial urge to get up at 6:45 a.m. on a Sunday morning, and in chilly 37-degree weather push to get the tubers planted before the predicted earth-soaking rains? Of course, I do it now so the tubers can benefit from the wet soil, getting a good start on life. I do it because my parents and their parents before them did it. And I do it almost as if I have no choice. But I DO have a choice, and as I put the shovel to earth over and over again, I contemplate the possibility

of not digging them out this fall, just letting them freeze in the ground, or perhaps only planting a few and giving the rest away to some other poor soul who has a better right arm than I. However, as I continue to dig the 8 inches down, making a pile of dirt along the trench, I have a softening of the heart as I picture the exquisite beauty of their large purple flowers which will grace the back of my garden from mid-summer until autumn. I consider that the sacrifice of 1 1/2 hours will be well worth it, and my frame of mind begins to change.

Other thoughts, more soul wrenching and profound than my dahlia thoughts, begin to flood my mind as I continue to work. Through our good efforts and persistence, many other flowers of a different sort will blossom and flourish in our lives, as well as our relationship with them. I speak here of our children, mine in particular. Potentially evasive realizations come to me as gently as the breeze on this spring morning, yet as hard as the clumps of soil my hands have to work. As my children grow, and as they become independent, I hope I can be wise enough to appreciate their little accomplishments inbetween the mishaps, to trust in the inspirations and visions they will most

surely have for their own lives, and to continue to understand how arduous a task it is for a young person to break into the world of work and adult emotions. It is as painful at times as having to break up the clumps of fertile soil to put around the tender roots and shoots of my dahlias. But the pain is inevitable, perhaps even necessary. Both the pain and the joy of growing older with one's children, suffering through the hard times with them, is a process which must be done, in the end bearing much fruit. To love unconditionally is life's highest challenge, whether it be in parenting or gardening.

The dahlias planted, I look with satisfaction at the dirt smoothed into place over the tubers, feel a greater pain in my right arm than when I began, and wonder when I too will have to discontinue this tradition. My sister, who has no time for such things, will have better vegetable produce than I, no doubt, but the dahlias HAD to get in. Now that they are snugly wrapped in the soil of the earth, I no longer wonder why I am driven to do it. Diggin' the dahlias is for me, at least this spring, a time of happy contemplation, a time to work out some truths for myself, and then to share them with you.

Pay back time...

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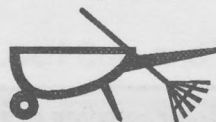
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**Mount Saint Mary's
Students Taking
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to Monterey, Mexico**

Mount Saint Mary's College is partici-
pating in their first international community
service project. Fourteen students, includ-
ing area student Lori Angleberger, and two
community service co-ordinators depart
May 7 for Monterey, Mexico. During the
ten-day visit they will provide assistance to
those less fortunate than themselves.

They will serve in a community
kitchen, work with social workers in on-site
visits, help reforest and clear land for a
housing project, and contribute in many
other ways. The experience will give them
an opportunity to share their faith and dem-
onstrate their willingness to help the poor
among our neighbors to the south. We have
asked Lori to share some of her experiences
with our readers when she returns. Look for
her comments in the next issue of the *Dis-
patch*.



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Garden Perplexities

by Barbara Steele, Alloway Gardens

Last summer we received a request from
one of our readers for a list of some neat plant
places to visit within a day's drive of
Emmitsburg. With spring in the air, this seems
like a good time to tell you of the places we know
about. We invite any of our readers to send us
names and addresses of other plant places to be
published in the future.

Ashcombe Greenhouse - 906 Grantham Road,
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Homeplace Everlastings - Route 9, Box 375,
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Landis Valley - Pennsylvania Farm
Museum (fee charged) - 2451 Kissel Hill
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Mountainside Gardens - 311 S. Main
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Lilypons Water Gardens - 6800
Lilypons Road, Buckeystown, MD,
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Rosemary House - 120 S. Market Street,
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CATOCTIN FAMILY CHIROPRACTIC

Posture Alert

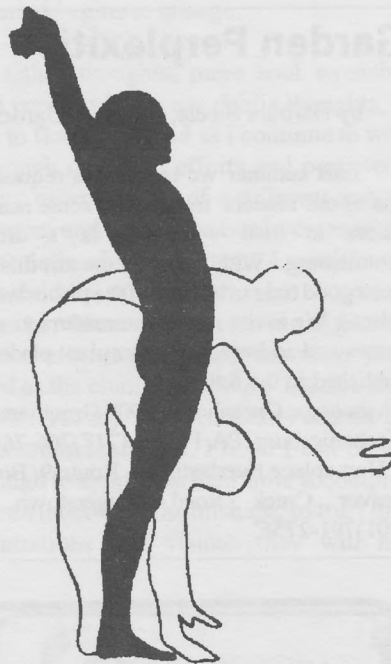
Tips to Prevent Aches and Pains

Everyone has experienced back pain at some time or another. Stressful situations, improper posture, sedentary lifestyle, excess weight, and even exercise are all factors that can contribute to or directly cause back pain. Although pinpointing the cause isn't always clearcut, certain steps can be taken to reduce chances of backache.

Follow these "Perfect Posture" guidelines when performing these activities:

❑ **Lifting:** When lifting a heavy object, always squat down and hold the object as close to your body as possible, then raise yourself with your legs, not your back. Bending down from the waist with straight legs is a sure invitation to back pain. In addition, wear comfortable, stable shoes. Wearing high heels, especially when lifting heavy items, can throw off your balance.

❑ **Sitting:** Maintain good sitting posture with both legs together on the floor, back straight, head held up without sticking out your chin; and arms resting comfortably. Avoid sitting in the same position for long periods of time. Stretch your arms and back at least once every hour. People who sit at a desk all day are



prone to stiff and tired muscles or an aching back.

❑ **Sleeping:** Sleep on a firm mattress, one that is not too hard, but rigid enough to support the back without sagging. Lie on your back or side with your knees bent, if possible. Avoid sleeping on your stomach as this strains the neck and low back. If you have lower back, hip, or leg pain when sleeping on your side, place a pillow between your knees. Do not raise your arms above your shoulders.

❑ **Exercising:** Exercise! Weak, fatigued, or malnourished muscles can't support the skeletal system properly and may result in back pain. Walking, swimming, and stretching are usually very helpful. However, it's a good policy to check with your chiropractor before beginning any new exercise program, especially if you already have back problems.

❑ **Word Processing:** Sitting at your terminal for many hours may cause back, neck, shoulder, and leg pain. Poor posture and/or the improper position of the video display terminals can create a lot of stress on your back. To take the pain out of word processing, keep feet flat on the floor and arms at 90-degree angles from the elbows to the keyboard; sit all the way back in a cushioned chair and adjust it to accommodate your height. Keep the VDT screen 18-20 inches from your eyes, and 15 degrees below eye level.

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THURMONT CHIROPRACTOR ATTENDS CONFERENCE WITH ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER

Dr. John Hagemann of Thurmont was among a select group of doctors of chiropractic from around the world invited to participate in the third annual Symposium on Natural Fitness held March 3-5 in Columbus, Ohio. This unique event was sponsored by the Council on Fitness and Sports Health Science of the International Chiropractors Association in conjunction with the Arnold Schwarzenegger Bodybuilding Classic. The Classic is one of the world's most prestigious annual bodybuilding competitions and is sanctioned by the International Federation of Body Building.

The focus of the symposium was the relationship between fitness and health, and it brought together the sport of bodybuilding and the science of chiropractic. Through clinical presentations and lectures as well as practical demonstrations, the symposium sought to educate all parties on the value of natural fitness and to develop injury-free, maximum-performance training skills.

The highlight of this year's symposium was the appearance of fitness advocate and global superstar Arnold Schwarzenegger. This year, Mr. Schwarzenegger was recognized by the International Chiropractors Association with a special award for his "vast and historic contribution to the public awareness of the relationship between fitness and health." Mr. Schwarzenegger was presented with a classical Greek sculpture depicting perfection in the human form as a symbol of his contributions in this important area.

"We have to all work towards improving the people's health and improving this country because it all has to do with that. Each and every one of us has to ask ourselves every night have we done enough to convince someone to become a better person, become healthier, to get in shape, to get off the streets, to get away from gang violence, and all these things. Each one of us is already working in the right direction," Schwarzenegger said.

Chiropractic offers athletes of all types a natural, drug-free way to achieve peak per-

formance, prevent injury, and maintain a rigorous training schedule.

Dr. John Hagemann is a graduate of Life Chiropractic College and has been in practice for two years. The doctor's office is located at The Catoctin Family Chiropractic Center, 56 Water Street in Thurmont. Dr. Hagemann is a member of the International Chiropractors Association and the Maryland Chiropractic Association. He is also a graduate of Mount Saint Mary's.



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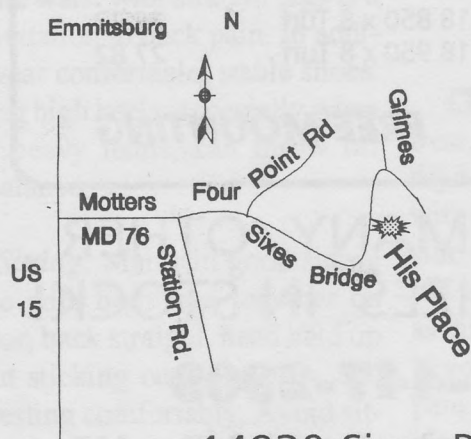
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The Pastor's Column

.....Anonymous Community.....

by Jean Smith Liddell

It has been almost a year since I moved to Maryland. There are still some things that are hard to assimilate. For instance, the "No Merge" warning signs on the entrance ramps of highways pose a problem. Going from 0 mph to 55 mph in five seconds to get onto Route 270 is still a struggle. If the highway department understands the difficulties involved enough to place huge warning signs of the danger ahead, why don't they just go ahead and solve the problem? Why don't they build safe entrance ramps? In the meantime, it is a lesson in frustration for the hapless driver stuck waiting for the traffic to clear enough to make a dash for it. Fellow travelers seem oblivious to the struggles on the sidelines, as they speed along blocking the way for newcomers to enter the highway. It is a kind of mobile turfdom, symbolic of the struggle we have all had at one time or another in new communities, new

jobs, new schools, new marriages, new lives.

Being new to a community is awkward, at best, not only for the newcomer but also for the people who are well established. The

"How can I feel so alone, living among so many people?"

newcomer is vulnerable because local traditions, being unspoken and unrecorded, are so easy to transgress. And yet, that is not the only struggle present. After an initial warmth of hospitality when I moved in last summer, my neighbors in the townhouse complex where I live have slipped back into the busy privacy of their own lives. "How can I feel so alone, living among so many people?" This is a question I have asked more than once in the past year. Early friendliness has faded into polite nods. Cathy told me last summer, in fact, that she and her husband Peter, had made friends with other people who lived in the town-

house complex, but that the people had moved away. This had happened two or three times, and eventually they had become reluctant to try again. Cathy has been one who politely nods to me when she sees me. Lately, I have felt like saying to her that I had been there a year, and didn't she think that a year's worth of friendship had some value?

Friends of mine back in Chicago envied my move, my escape from the pressures and dangers of city life to the beautiful surroundings of rural Maryland. But this new way of life is an "anonymous community" where people remain at a distance. As Christians, we are called to live together, to share in each other's struggles, supporting and caring for all who come into our lives. And so I wonder what I need to do. And I wonder how many other people feel that they live in an "anonymous community?"

Jean Smith Liddell is a professor of theology at Mount Saint Mary's.

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EMMITSBURG ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

By Diane Walbrecker

This month's *Dispatch* features two kinds of writing by first graders. First are several original spring stories and following that are examples of factual paragraphs about Japan.

ORIGINAL SPRING STORIES BY FIRST GRADERS

"The River to the Bunny Trail" by Kyle Potts

My father and I went down to the bay. We got into a boat. We then met a bunny rabbit and the rabbit helped us to get the engine started. The rabbit, my father, and I went fishing.

"FuFu the Rabbit" by Bradley Greene

FuFu was walking in the forest and tripped over an egg. FuFu said, "Hmmm, what's that?" So he kept the egg and when it hatched he saw a chick, and they became friends.

"Oh Little Henry" by Nancy Cool

Oh Little Henry couldn't find a berry. So instead he found an egg. He fell asleep on it. Then he woke up because he heard a crack. He thought it was a frog but it was a duck. That's it!

"Alferd and the Huge Egg" by Chris Kelly

One day Alferd the rabbit was walking down the park trail when suddenly he came upon a huge egg. He knocked on the huge egg. He thought, What could be in this egg? Could it be an ostrich? I think it is an elephant in the egg. It's cracking! It is an ostrich. So he hugged the ostrich and kept it. The End

FACTUAL PARAGRAPHS BY FIRST GRADE STUDENTS (Mrs. Rice's/Mrs. Hollebeck's classes)

"Japan" by Matthew Presgraves

Japan is an island. They talk different. They wear kimonos. The capital of Japan is Tokyo.

"Japan" by Chris Kelly

Japan's flag stands for the land of the rising sun. Japan's money is called Yen. Japan's people wear kimonos when doing something special.

"Japan" by Josh Weikert

Japan is made up of 4 islands. Japan people catch fish. Yen is the name of the money. Japan people wear different shoes.

Emmitsburg Elementary Students "Jump Rope For Heart"

The Emmitsburg Elementary School held a successful Jump Rope for Heart Event on March 3, 1995. Thanks to the generosity of the Emmitsburg Community, the children raised \$5,200 in contributions for the American Heart Association. More than 100 children, parents, and faculty jumped rope for 180 minutes to help the American Heart Association in their fight against heart disease. Refreshments were provided by the Emmitsburg Jubilee Foods.



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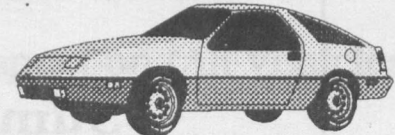
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Mother Seton School

by Val Menzter

Writings

Kathy Kelley, 1st grade

Patrick has a cat that's big and fat. When he's good, he will get a pat.

Presents are nice to receive and presents are nice to give but the best part about presents is they're signs of friendship.

Mr. Fish goes up and down. Mr. Fish goes round and round. Mr. Fish goes nowhere, except in the big blue pond.

Winners of Essay Contest Announced

The Emmitsburg American Legion Auxiliary Post #121 once again sponsored the writing contest entitled "My Dream For

America's Future." This is a contest in which all of the nation's American Legion Posts participate. Ms. Lois C. Hartdagen, president of the Emmitsburg Auxiliary, and Mrs. Patricia Troxell, Americanism Chairman, presented checks to the following winners from Mother Seton School: Amy Kalas, Matthew Kent, and Kevin Kelley.

Band Takes First Place

The Mother Seton School Band won a first-place rating in the Baltimore Archdiocesan Band Festival held at Seton Keogh High School in Baltimore. This festival hosted bands from 30 elementary schools.

Mr. Dave Metcalf, the instrumental and concert band teacher at Mother Seton School, has 57 students participating in their concert band program. The band will perform at the Mother Seton School Spring musical, titled "Down by the Creekbank," on June 1 at 10:00 am. and 7:00 p.m. The program will be directed by music teacher Karen Quillin and will star the 3rd, 4th, 5th, and 6th grades.

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OBITUARY

Mary Jean Bower

Mary Jean Bower, 74, died Feb. 19, 1995, at East Pointe Hospital in Lehigh Acres. She was born Oct. 15, 1920, in Emmitsburg, MD.

Memorial services will be held in Emmitsburg May 21, 1995, 12:30 p.m., at Elias Evangelical Lutheran Church, Emmitsburg, MD. Interment will be in Mountain View Cemetery.

Mrs. Bower is survived by her husband, Frederick B. Bower, Sr., of LaBelle; daughter, Patty Jean Cox and her husband, Earl, from Sterling, VA; two sons, Frederick B. Bower, Jr., and his wife, Patricia, of College Station, TX, and James M. Bower and his wife, Lynn, of Atlanta, GA; three grandchildren and two great-grandchildren; sister Dorothy McFarlane of Hemdon, VA.

Kathryn Irene Plumb

Kathryn Plumb left this life on Thursday, April 27, 1995, after a long fight with cancer. She is survived by a loving family of Bob, her husband, and Rob, Neal, and Andy, their sons. She is also survived by her sister Jane Ann Benyo of Portland, OR, nieces Jane Petty of

Encino CA, and Kristen Nelson of Huntington Beach, CA, nephews Geoff Nelson of Morris Plains, NJ, John David Benyo of Gainsville, FL, and Scott Nelson of Huntington Beach, CA. She leaves behind many friends in Charlottesville, as well as in Maryland and Pennsylvania.

She was active in historical preservation, having been very involved in the restoration of Schifferstadt in Frederick, MD and in working on the National Register of Historic Places in Maryland and Pennsylvania. She spent many hours volunteering in the Offenders Aid and Restoration Program in Charlottesville.

She was active in church work, having served on the National Board of the United Thank Offering of the Episcopal Church. Additionally, she was instrumental in expanding food banks, establishing a brown-bag lunch group for women and in aiding single mothers with educational and skill development.

She was a lifelong Episcopalian and an active member of Church of our Saviour on Rio Road in Charlottesville. Services were held at the church on Saturday, April 29, 1995, at 3:00 p.m. Interment was in the church cemetery. The Revs. David May and F. Scott Hennessy officiated.

A word about pre-arrangements and pre-financing



The funeral serves a wide range of purposes, with religious, psychological and physical significances. There are many aspects and details to the meaningful funeral that are arranged with the assistance of the professional funeral director, usually at the time of need. However, some people prefer counseling prior to need.

We offer complete information on pre-arrangements and pre-financing, available without cost or obligation of any kind. Feel free to contact us at your convenience.

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FRESH WATER FISH, THE PET

By Jack Deatherage, Jr.

Here is one of the basic truths in the fish keeping hobby. *Fish will mate if everything is to their liking:* good water, high quality food, the right temperature, lighting, tank mates, community neighbors, plants and water changes (at just the right time and frequency.) Books have been written about these factors and their importance to the fish you want to reproduce.

All your efforts to keep the tank clean and healthy suddenly pay off when a pair of fish confirm their needs have been satisfied by laying eggs or giving birth. You have the skill! HA!

I have 7 "cobalt" discus (common hybrids) that were purchased two Januaries ago for \$10 apiece. They were each as big as a quarter. I was told how to care for them and followed the instructions faithfully, almost. There had been 8 fish to start with. Of course, as I write this in mid-April my worst fears have come true.

For the last year the "cobalts" have resided in a 125 gallon tank with 5 angels (the experts say the two species should not be in the same tank) and a collection of fishes chosen more for appearance than compatibility. The water has been changed twice in the last six months (I will now hang my head in shame) and I don't remember when I changed the filter last. (I hate that monster.)

The pH hasn't been tested all winter (the book says 6.5, the tank was 8.3 the last I checked.) The temperature has been 72° F (discus require 80°F for good health.) The book recommends live foods to get discus ready to breed. I have fed freeze-dried and flake foods for more than a year. In short, I have expected the fish to begin showing signs of distress or sickness.

So what do these delicate, majestic, proof-of-fish-keeping skill do? Hunh?? What do they do!?

They lay eggs.

All the hours spent reading the magazines and books (some of them bought with money better spent elsewhere), the water changes (when they were done properly), the testing of pH, the worrying that I had made a mistake and would lose the tank, the guilt of knowing that I wasn't taking the best care of *my* pets—

They lay eggs!

In my defense, I claim some knowledge or skill. The tank is large and large tanks take longer to turn toxic, I knew that. The foods I gave the fish are varied and of good quality. The water out of my tap is pretty good despite the complaints of many in Emmitsburg. And I knew that raising the temperature from 72° to 80° would trigger the urge to mate, if the fish were ready.

I am convinced that just keeping the fish is not difficult if you take the least bit of care in your dealings with them. Everyone has their own way of maintaining an aquarium. Obviously the fish have their own tolerances that allow them to survive our ignorance and/or laziness.

I take consolation in a bit of knowledge gleaned from the book and magazines I've bought and read. *The fish will sometime eat their eggs.* My mated pair of "cobalts" are gourmets! Caviar anyone?

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