



The Emmitsburg Dispatch

Vol IX, No.12

news and opinion in the service of truth

December 2002



Edna Crouse leaves the Square, many friends and memories

By Patricia A. Bianca
Staff Writer

"Momma Crouse is dead." Chris Wilson recalls the sad lament from a retired deputy in Brunswick. Chris already knew the bad news. At The Ott House, where Chris serves up food and spirits, Mrs. Crouse's passing has been a hot topic since the news of her death on Oct. 29 at age 89.

From Crouse's on the Square, Edna E. Crouse served generations of Emmitsburg's families for over 56 years. The oldest continuously run business in Emmitsburg, Crouse's establishment was a favorite Sunday destination for many an Emmitsburg child.

Edna and her husband Walter opened Crouse's on April 2, 1946. The neighborhood shop originally contained booths and served hamburgers, hot dogs, ice cream and other good ol' American snack foods. Over the years, however, as Mrs. Crouse got on in age, the store lost the booths and burgers, but continues to sell hand-dipped ice cream and snoballs. Crouse's also began to offer convenience items and souvenir apparel to the many emergency services personnel who wandered into the family store.

And wander in they did. Mrs. Crouse amassed a collection of emergency services badges and business cards from around the world. In return for their mementos, these out-of-town-

—Continued on page 2

Christmas Tree Lighting On The Square

Carolers accompanied the Mayor and Town commissioners as they lit Emmitsburg's Christmas tree Dec. 2. This 2nd annual tree-lighting ceremony began at 6 p.m. and was part of the 13th annual 'Evening of Christmas Spirit' hosted by the Carriage House Inn.

The United Church of Christ pro-

vided the choir, and Mother Seton School students the decorations, with sound and music by Elaine and Denny Ebaugh. Santa came riding through the Square in a hay wagon on his way to the Carriage House Inn where he greeted children of all ages. A live Nativity scene was presented, and there were hay rides and other entertainment by

local choirs, choruses, and vocalists.

The Carriage House Inn provided complimentary hot dogs, cookies, and refreshments for over 500 people. Bob and Jean Cadle helped coordinate the evenings events.

The Lions Club was on hand to accept canned goods and other donations for its Christmas food drive.

Signatures verified, referendum petition accepted

Staff report

The resolution annexing the Silver Fancy farm has been suspended by Mayor Jim Hoover. On Nov. 6 he and Town Clerk Donna Thompson evaluated signatures on a referendum petition and, after disqualifying 33, found 97 more than necessary. State law requires that the number of signatures on a referendum petition represent at least 20 percent of registered voters; for Emmitsburg that would be 234. The valid signatures on the petition submitted to the Mayor number 331.

In August Commissioners Brennan and Sweeney had voted for the annexation, and Mayor Hoover signed his approval. But many citizens objected to a housing development spreading over what is now 67 acres of nearly empty land a short walk from downtown Emmitsburg.

Some of them joined together as the "Citizens Organization to Preserve Emmitsburg" (COPE) to petition for a referendum on the annexation, which allows citizens to vote directly for, or against it. They gathered 364 signa-

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Emmitsburg Dispatch encourages its readers to express their thoughts and opinions about issues that appear in this publication or affect the community. Letters must be exclusive to the Dispatch and should be no longer than 300 words in length. They must be signed and include the writer's address and phone number to be used for verification. The Dispatch reserves the right to edit for content and space. Deadline for letters is the 15th of each month.

Thanks to Ambulance Co

We would like to thank the Emmitsburg Ambulance Co. for their prompt and courteous response to our 911 call. Emergency situations are

never easy but we were comforted by their professionalism.

—The Hankey family
Emmitsburg, MD

Referendum is democracy in action

On November 4 the Mayor and Emmitsburg Town Council announced that the Town had received enough signatures to call for a referendum on the resolution which authorizes the annexation of the Silver Fancy Farm.

The referendum is an important tool of our democracy because it provides the voters of Emmitsburg a direct voice in determining the future of our town. To vote on an issue which could have a profound effect on the

future of Emmitsburg is democracy in action.

I want to congratulate the people from Citizens Organized to Preserve Emmitsburg (COPE) for collecting signatures and bringing the annexation issue to the people. I hope that this group will continue its important work to preserve and protect our town and the quality of life it provides us.

—Ted Brennan
Emmitsburg Town Commissioner

Mayor defends his actions

Last month, Lisa Elder said in these pages that I have not offered any alternative solutions to our water problems. In 2000 the town installed a water line connecting Mt. St. Mary's College (MSN) and the Town's water system. The Town has a contract for MSM to provide the town with up to 100,000 gallons of water per day.

Earlier this year, the town drilled a well in Emmet Gardens. This well is not on line yet, we are currently testing to determine what treatment will be necessary. This well may cost \$200,000 to be put in service; the town is prepared to bear that cost. The Maryland Department of the Environment has approved this well to provide 83,000 gallons of water per day. In 1999 the town revised the new water treatment plant designs to add a 100,000-gallon storage tank.

Another alternative, the annexation resolution, requires Buckeye Development to supply the town with an additional 26,000 gallons of water per day. With the new well, the added 100,000 gallon storage tank, the connection to MSM and the 26,000 gallon requirement attached to the annexation resolution, I feel some solutions have been made.

About development, one fact that Mrs. Elder does not understand, prior to considering the annexation, the town recently decreased the total

number of approved homes by 118 in 3 subdivisions (Silo Hill, Pembroke and Emmet Ridge). These subdivisions were approved for building in the late 1980's and early 1990's without any planned improvements to the town's infrastructure and with no plans to increase the town's water supply.

The "245 homes already approved for construction" Mrs. Elder talks about was 363 homes. But, the planning and zoning commission made changes to these subdivisions in the late 1990's. Now we have an additional subdivision proposing 130 homes [so that] the town's new total proposed homes equals 375.

Municipal bonds, it is correct, I would rather not issue them. Municipal bonds are nothing more than a low interest rate loan (usually 2.5 to 3.5 percent). The Town of Emmitsburg is 18 percent in debt, double of where we should be. There is no doubt, that we may need to issue bonds to complete all of the needed repairs, but the smaller the amount we borrow the better the town will be.

As a person who has sat on several town committees, I feel I that I do my research and offer solutions to town matters.

—Jim Hoover
Mayor of Emmitsburg

Crouse

—Continued from page 1

ers took with them the fond memory of "Momma Crouse."

One of Edna's nephews traveled to China and was shocked to meet someone there who knew his aunt. Momma Crouse's spirit, it seems, had reached around the world.

A global presence is something Edna Crouse couldn't have dreamed of in her youth. Born in Cove Gap, Pennsylvania and raised in nearby Chambersburg, Edna pursued a career in nursing until she married Walter Crouse in 1943.

Edna met Walter on a blind date back in high school. They dated for several years before settling down and raising their daughter, Susan. Susan recalls her parents as having a very happy marriage. "The remarkable thing was they could spend 24 hours a day with each other and that was wonderful. They did everything together, worked, shopped — everything." Mr. Crouse passed away in 1985 — the same year that Susan lost her husband, Charles Free, Jr., to cancer.

Susan and her mother grew even closer in their grief. They traveled together at least once a year, taking cruises to the Caribbean, South America and Alaska. But Edna loved coming home to Emmitsburg. She lived on the third floor of the apartment building across the square from Crouse's for over 50 years and was delighted when the little town got a face-lift, complete with underground electrical wires and lovely, old-world street lanterns.

Susan credits the business and Edna's love of people as the reason for her mom's longevity. Edna enjoyed speaking with all the emergency services trainees and the children who flocked to Crouse's for sweets and Momma's affection. Children continue to come to Crouse's and speak of their fondness for Mrs. Crouse, who often

remembered their favorite treats by heart.

Local photographer Bob Rosensteel tells of how Mrs. Crouse approached him soon after he lost his display space in another local storefront. She offered him the use of one of her large display windows. Bob became fast friends with Mrs. Crouse and appreciated her homespun marketing advice, such as when to bring out the holiday photos. In return, he was on hand to help when Edna took 2 nasty falls, one of which broke her hip but not her spirit.

Mrs. Crouse's diehard nature was manifested through her health problems. She suffered from arthritis and, for the last 10 years, also from a serious form of anemia that often precedes leukemia. She was diagnosed with leukemia in August. From there, Susan said, her mom's health deteriorated rapidly, "especially in the last 3 weeks."

I met Susan at the store on Wednesday evening. Because she works full-time at an area bank, evenings are the only time she is able to open the store. Susan has fond memories of growing up in Crouse's, progressing from washing dishes while standing on a Coke crate to working the register and socializing with her friends. She says that it's too soon to decide the fate of Crouse's on the Square.

While I was speaking with Susan that evening, Bob Rosensteel stopped by to deliver a lovely, framed photo of Mrs. Crouse. Chris Wilson told me that Edna was "a really pretty lady, who looked a lot younger than she was." Chris had not exaggerated.

With a life so fully lived, Edna E. Crouse seems to have had only one regret. According to Susan, Edna wanted to live to be 100 years old so that Willard Scott would read her name over the air. From what I've heard of Edna Crouse, she has legions of friends who also wish she could have made it to 100.

— See obituary on p.9



NOW OPEN!

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For those of you who may have never experienced the true Southern Style Barbecue, you've not yet lived a full life! Sure, you can get better BBQ at one other place... unfortunately you have to die & go to Heaven first! BBQ served by the sandwich, half pound or full pound. Served with any 2 sides. Substitute French Fries for 1.50

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| Beef Brisket
Juicy fall apart tender beef brisket - 5.99
1/2 lb. - 7.99 1 lb. - 10.99 | Pulled Pork
Oak & Hickory smoked. Slow cooked 12 hours! - 5.49
1/2 lb. - 7.49 1 lb. - 10.49 | Smoked Salmon
A twist of the old barbecue experience. fresh smoked salmon - market |
| St. Louis Style Ribs
If you can find a tastier, more tender rib-let us know... we'll want to eat there!
1/2 Rack - 9.99 Full - 16.99 | Combo
For those who can't decide!
Ribs, Brisket, & Pulled Pork - 9.99
St. Louis Ribs & Beef Brisket - 8.99 | Smoked Chicken
So finger lickin' good, we had one customer who sucked the fingers right off his hand!
1/4 chicken - 3.99 1/2 chicken - 7.29
Whole - 9.99 |

Double Fisted Burgers & Such

Eat it here...served with Fries & a pickle! What's a Frip! Let's just say, they'll make you "Frip for a Frip!" Burgers so good, they'll jump off the plate & lick your face!

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| Hamburger
Ham, who invented the "Burger" says this is the best! 1/2 lb. Angus Beef - 4.99
Add Chili - 1.00 | Club
Triple decker ham, turkey and bacon - 6.49 | Grilled Cheese & Bacon Sandwich
2.99 |
| Cheeseburger
1/2 lb. Angus Beef - 5.49
Add Chili - 1.00 | BLT
O.K., you guess on this one! - 3.99 | Turkey & Cheese
Yep, it's got turkey & cheese on it... - 4.99 |
| Bacon Cheeseburger
1/2 lb. Angus Beef - 5.49
Add Chili - 1.00 | Marinated Italian Chicken Breast
This all white meat, tender chicken sandwich is the best! Served with marinara sauce and melted provolone cheese - 6.49 | Ham & Cheese
Yep, it's got ham & cheese on it... - 4.99
Add Bacon - 5.49 |
| Blue Cheese Burger
1/2 lb. Angus Beef - 6.49
Add Chili - 1.00 | Bacon, Egg, & Cheese Sandwich
3.49 | Tuna or Smoked Chicken
Personally, we think you should order the Fried Bologna, but if you just can't do it, pick either Tuna or Smoked Chicken! - 4.99 |
| Greek Burger
1/2 lb. Angus Beef topped with Feta Cheese - 6.49
Add Chili - 1.00 | Sausage, Egg, Cheese Sandwich
3.49 | Honey Batter Fried Chicken
4 pieces of the best fried chicken available! Pass! Don't tell, but it makes the Colonel look like he was just a private! - 5.99 |
| Chubby Burger
Our best Angus beef steak topped with charbroiled Louisiana hot links - 6.99 | The Elvis
Fried Peanut Butter, Honey and Banana Sandwich - 3.49 | Pork Chop
Tender juicy pork chops will make you lick our chops! - 5.49 |
| Warm Roast Beef
Served on a soft roll, dipped in gravy with horseradish sauce!
So great, it'll make you cry! - 6.99 | Fried Bologna
The best! Never had one! Never lived! - 3.49 | |



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Add Chicken - 7.99
Add Tender Roast Beef - 8.99
Add Steamed Shrimp - 9.99
- Onion Soup**
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- Soup of the Day**
Bowl - 4.49 Cup - 2.95
- Award Winning Chili**
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Texas Style on Spaghetti - 5.99
With Cheese - .49 With Onions - .49
With Beans - .49 Side of Chili - 4.99
- Chubby's Homemade Sides**
Slow Smoked Baked Beans
Our musical fruit...They're a gas! 1.99
Cole Slaw 1.99
Chubby's Famous Homemade Potato Salad 1.99
Macaroni and Cheese
So good you'll want to order a bedtime story to go! 2.49
Corn Bread
If you eat this while you're mad, everything will soon be alright! 1.29
Chubby's Mashed Potatoes with Sausage & Bacon
So good you might decide to keep it as an investment! - 2.99

APPETIZERS

- Buffalo Wings**
Just the right zip it de doo da! Dip it in your favorite sauce!
Choose Mild, Medium or Hot
10 - 5.99 20 - 9.99
- Onion Rings**
These are "no, you can't have one of mine", good! - 3.99
- French Fries**
They don't do 'em like this anywhere else! Homemade & yummy! - 2.99
Add Chili or Cheese...you'll think you died & went to heaven! - 3.99
- Bacon Cheese French Fries**
Come on, live it up! You'll never go back to just plain! - 3.99
- Potato Skins**
The best part of the potato... we pack it with yummy stuff. These skins are so good folks have been known to forgo chewing them first! - 4.99 With chili...add a buck!
- Mozzarella Sticks**
Batter dipped & crispy outside with ooey gooey cheese on the inside. Served with marinara sauce. - 3.99
- Steamed Shrimp**
Caution: A state of ecstasy a common side effect! - market
- Jumbo Shrimp Cocktail**
If someone offers you something better, RUN! It has to be illegal! - 7.99
- Jalapeno Poppers**
Fried peppers jam packed with monterey jack. If these don't grab your taste-buds, we're going to take your pulse! - 4.99
- Jammer Shrimp**
Jumbo fried shrimp stuffed with your favorite! Cheddar, Monterey Jack, or Mozzarella, or a combo of Cheddar, Monterey Jack, & Jalapeno - 8.99
- Chicken Tenders**
If the old couple in the next booth start clucking, they probably are having some of these! - 5.99
- Fried Zucchini**
Tom says if you love fried zucchini we also do brain scans! - 4.99
- Fried Mushrooms**
Tom thinks it's wrong, but we love 'em! - 4.99
- HOT DOGS**
(10 Times better than cold dogs! All beef, Hebrew National of course!) Served with Fries, a pickle, & all your favorite fixins!
- Jumbo Dog** - 2.99
Pollish Sausage - 3.29
Louisiana Hot Link - 3.29
Bratwurst - 3.29
Corndog - 3.29
(Live it up, life is short...add chili to any of the above for just a buck!)

Sub Sandwiches

Eat it here...served with Fries & a pickle!
All Subs come with your choice of lettuce, tomato, mayo, onions, Italian dressing and hot peppers.
SUBS SERVED HALF OR WHOLE

- Cheeseburger Sub**
One foot x 1-1/2 lbs of our best Angus beef! If you can eat a whole one of these, we'll give you a second one at full price! - 6.99/8.99
- Fried Chicken Breast**
3 deep fried chicken breasts topped with bacon & melted cheese - 5.99/8.99
- Tuna**
Our tuna is homegrown right next door in the Pacific ocean! - 5.49/7.99
- Smoked Chicken Salad**
You've gotta try this one! - 5.49/7.99
- Fried Pork Loin**
Eat at your own risk... this sub has been known to cause people to smile themselves to death! - 5.99/8.99
- Grab Cake**
Feeling crabby? Try it, you'll like it! - 8.99/10.99
- Turkey & Cheese & Bacon**
Tender smoked turkey! - 5.99/8.99
- Italian Meatball**
This was Leonardo da Vinci's favorite sub! - 5.99/8.99
- Vegetarian**
If you like a ton of veggies on your sub you won't like this one...this has a ton & a half! - 4.49/7.49
- Fried Cod**
This isn't a fish story. This sub is over 30 ft. long, batter dipped & crispy fried. - 5.99/8.99
- DESSERT**
Wanna be fat & happy! Have some!
COBBLER OF THE DAY
There may be better, but not on this planet! - 2.99 with ice cream - 3.99
Fudge-Brownie Sundae - 3.49
Banana Split - 3.49
Soft Serve Ice Cream
Cones - 8 Flavors
Small - 1.49 Large - 1.99
Sinful Fudge Cake - 3.49
Cheesecake - 3.49
Ask about Today's Surprise Dessert!
- Italian Coldcut**
Capicola Ham, hard salami, genoa salami, provolone cheese & pepperoni topped with our famous Italian dressing makes this awesome! Eat one of these & see if you feel like dancing! - 5.99/8.99
- Cold Cut**
If you can toss your lips across this - you've got huge lips! Football ham, hard salami, Genoa salami, beef bologna, Lebanon bologna and American cheese - 5.99/8.99
- Ham & Cheese**
Kinda boring, look above at Cold Cut Sub!
Our choice of ham and your choice of cheese - 5.49/7.99
- Steak & Cheese**
Tender grilled steak with your choice of melted cheese - 5.99/8.99
- Bacon & Melted Cheese**
How does 18 pieces of bacon grab your heart? If you're not fatter when you leave, we have failed our mission! - 5.49/8.49
- Kids**
Kids 12 and under. Your Choice - 3.99
Sandwiches come with chips & a pickle.
Peanut Butter and Jelly - grilled or not
1/4 lb. Hamburger
Hot Dog
Grilled Cheese
Fried Bologna
Buttered Spaghetti with Parmesan Cheese
Served with soft bread & butter!

Beverages

- Iced Tea - 1.59
Soda - 1.29
Root Beer Float - 2.99
So good, you'll float too!
- Lemonade - 1.99
Coffee/Tea - 1.29
Milkshake - 2.99
Malt - 2.09



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EDITORIAL

The 10 Commandments: Rules for being human

Does a display of the Ten Commandments promote religion? Some federal judges think it does; see the report on p. 6. They claim it violates the First Amendment, which forbids the establishment of a state religion. Underlying the decisions of these judges — besides debatable assumptions about free speech, the Establishment Clause, and religion — are 2 misconceptions about the Commandments that should be exposed.

The Ten Commandments are not expressions of any one religion, nor even 2. The Commandments found in the Bible are found also in several ancient codes of law that came out of the religions of those times. Many religions have expressed their faith by stating the Commandments, not just the religions of Christians and Jews. It is a factual mistake to assert that a display of them promotes any one religion — if, indeed, it promotes anything. But that starts a different argument.

The other, more important misconception is that the commandments set forth in Exodus, Chapter 20, are religious in origin. Reason shows they are not. Though proclaimed by religious leaders, enshrined in temples, and even,

as believers maintain, dictated by God, they are not arbitrary rules; God did not issue them to assert divine sovereignty. They were knowable without any special revelation.

The 10 Commandments are rules for being human. They could have, and should have, been known without God's instruction, independently of any religion, simply by reflecting on how to live as a human being. It is merely natural to know there is some one ultimate reason why the universe continues to exist and to call it "God." No one needs a religion to know the commandments of nature: Worship the one God and be what you are.

If judges don't like the Commandments displayed as if on stone

tablets reminiscent of the ones inscribed at Sinai, if they say "thou shalt" is religious language, then let's put our judicial system to the test, forcing them to prove that the Commandments are strictly religious. Here's what we can do.

Let every private business and organization, every shopkeeper and landlord, and let every governor, every county chief, and every mayor inscribe on public structures, boldly for all to see:

In this town, county, state, in these United States:

Worship the one God
at least once a week.
Have respect for your parents.
Don't kill.
Don't steal.
Don't commit adultery.
Don't commit perjury.
Don't covet what others have.

Let anti-religionists prove that these rules promote some one religion, unless there be a religion called "humanism."

— Bill Steo

Editor, The Emmitsburg Dispatch

Grill gives thanks with free meals

This Thanksgiving a local restaurant decided to celebrate the holiday with a great deal of giving — free meals to all who came. The Main Street Grill provided the free dinners as a way of giving thanks to the Emmitsburg community. Owner Richard Caudell said he "just wanted to give a little something back."

For Christmas the Grill is also accepting "Toys for Tots." Every customer who donates a toy will receive a free piece of homemade pie or a chocolate mousse.

The establishment on East Main Street includes a restaurant and bar-lounge. Caudell took over management of the Grill 14 months ago.

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TOWN NEWS

Town Manager's Report For October, November 2002

Emmitsburg Town Manager Dave Haller's reports for October and November are combined and summarized here:

Wastewater

1. The state (MDE) performed the annual inspection on the wastewater treatment plant and everything passed, this is due in a large part to the fine job by Dan Fissel and his crew.

But the wastewater treatment plant is sometimes maxed out by 'wild water'. Every day as much as one of every 2 gallons processed by the Town's wastewater plant is wild water. This means that on many days the Town's, wastewater treatment costs are 100 percent greater than need be.

The Town has had wild water/sanitary sewer main infiltration problems for many years. Infiltration is caused by broken and/or deteriorated sewer mains. Two years ago the Town relined the sanitary sewer mains where they pass under Flat Run; this has been a great help in reducing the infiltration, but the sanitary sewer main that runs from N. Seton Ave. to behind the old Rutter's store is still a major problem.

About 10 years ago an inspection of that main was attempted, but the main was so deteriorated that the TV robot could only get through a small portion of the line. The Town staff and many consultants think that this portion of the Town's system is causing as much as 80 percent of the ongoing infiltration problem.

In November water users consumed only an avg. of 256,009 GPD of drinking water but the Town treated an avg. of 775,000 GPD. This means that an avg. of 518,991 GPD, or 67 percent of all of the water treated at the plant, was wild water. On 5 days this month we treated over a million gallons — the daily avg. capacity of the plant is only 800,000 GPD.

If the infiltration problem in our sanitary sewer system is not addressed soon, we could end up dumping untreated sewerage if the right storm or conditions develop.

Code enforcement

1. In October and November a total of 264 tickets were issued, most (255) for overtime parking at meters.

2. Fees and fines collected totaled \$1,919.14 in October, \$2320.52 in November.

Parks

1. Staff presented to Town officials

bids for engineering work for the all-purpose field and the single-unit restroom planned for Community Park.

2. Relocated the County's recycling facility temporarily to Memorial Park until the Community Center renovation is completed. If the Town did not supply a temporary site, this recycling service would no longer be available in the Town of Emmitsburg during the renovation.

3. Winterized the park restrooms

Streets

1. Repaved East Lincoln Avenue from South Seton Avenue to Creamery Road; tarred cracks in street paving; removed speed bumps. Repaired some street lights. Cleaned East & West Main St.

2. Set up mobile traffic radar unit at a number of locations in town

3. Put up and decorated the town Christmas tree

Water

The Town has received an allocation permit from 'MDE' for well #7 for 83,000 GPD, enough for about 500 average residential unit users (at 166 GPD).

1. Tested well #7 (Emit Gardens); field portion of the test shows it is not under the influence of surface water

2. Water from wells 1 & 2 is being processed through the new plant. The 'chemical contact tank' has been placed in the new water plant and the piping work for said tank is underway

3. The Town continues to purchase water from Mt. St. Mary's College.

4. The Town is seeking bids for repairs to the Rainbow Lake spillway tunnel

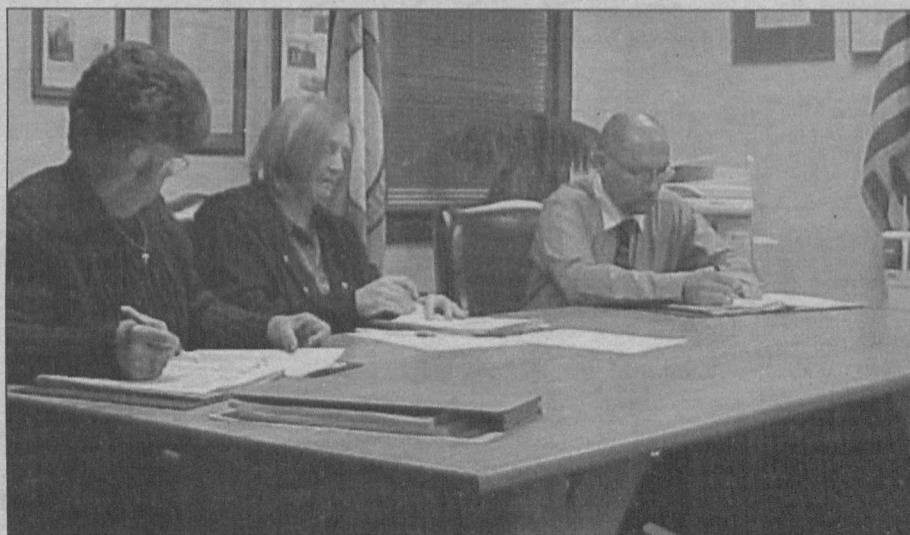
5. Average water production for October: 235,626 GPD, for November: 229,006 GPD

6. Both the Fire Academy and the Provincial House have reduced their consumption levels to within their target use limits.

7. Staff repaired water leaks: on Mt. View Rd. and at the Flat Run subdivision where the Town lost 112,000 gals. of treated drinking water because of sewer line excavation by the developer's contractor. The developer is being charged for the water at the Town's standard rate.

Zoning

There were a total of 16 permits issued in October and November, including permits for 3 new houses.



(L-R) Dottie Davis, Donna Thompson (Town clerk), and Mayor James Hoover verify signatures on petition for a referendum concerning annexation of land for a housing development. Davis was present on behalf of the petitioners. Also present, but not shown, was Fran Denmark for Buckeye Development. Thompson identified petition signatures while Mayor Hoover and Davis verified the names against the voter's registration list. Denmark, though not an official evaluator, also checked off names against the list.

Referendum

—Continued from page 1

tures of persons opposed to the annexation. There are 1173 voters registered within the boundaries of the town of Emmitsburg.

Of the 33 signatures disqualified, 24 were not legible, the names of 8 were not on the registration list, and one was a duplicate. One signature rejected as illegible was of Larry Pavek of East Main St. A photograph of him signing the petition appeared on the front page of The Emmitsburg Dispatch for October. There was no other "Larry Pavek" among the signatures.

One signature not on the petition was that of Bill O'Neil, one of the organizers of COPE. He has resided in Emmitsburg since June but had not yet changed his voter registration address. He engaged Mayor Hoover in a short-lived dispute about the reasons for rejecting signatures. Afterwards Hoover and Thompson seemed more willing to accept somewhat illegible signatures that could be verified in another way.

Mayor Hoover says he plans to have the referendum placed on the ballot in the town's next general election in April. He said he does not want to ask citizens to have to vote on it on a separate occasion.

A word from the Mayor Update on Town Water Wells

In September I reported the status of our wells and reservoir (Rainbow Lake). This month, I'll update you.

But first, in conjunction with the Governor's water ban, the water ban remains in effect in Emmitsburg.

In non-drought conditions well number one normally has water in the shaft up at 42 feet from the top; currently the water is down to 97 feet. Well number 2 normally has water in the shaft at 8 feet; currently the water is at 22 feet. In non-drought conditions well number 3 normally has water at 37 feet; currently that water is at 71 feet. Well number 5 normally has water at 9 feet; currently the water is at 72 feet. Well number 4 remains in reserve for future growth.

The town has been exercising its option to purchase water from MSM at an average of 30,000 gallons per day for the past 90 days. The Town Manager and Water Superintendent recommended purchasing water from MSM to minimize the strain on our old water plant.

The new water plant still is not in full operation.

Well number 6 is located above the reservoir. It had no connection to the town water system and the town withdrew its permit in order to receive a higher allocation for the well in Emmitsburg.

Rainbow Lake has a maximum allocation permit for 168,000 GPD. Currently the Town's Water Superintendent is pumping 50,000 GPD. Rainbow Lake is approximately 18 feet deep (at its deepest point) and its water is currently within three inches of going over the spillway.

As you can see the water levels in wells number 3 and 5 and the reservoir have increased a considerable amount. We expect with the increasing rains and the decrease in plant life (grass, flowers, trees, weeds etc.) the town's water supply will continue to increase.

— Jim Hoover
Mayor of Emmitsburg

Planning & Zoning balances growth and town's way of life

Staff report

Emmitsburg is under attack, not by foreign terrorists, but by the perpetrators of urban sprawl. As nearby metropolitan areas become grossly overcrowded, some families come to Emmitsburg, craving clean air and small town life. To provide these goods Emmitsburg relies partly on its Planning & Zoning Commission whose task is to balance any request for growth with the town's culture, history and environmental resources.

The Commission works mainly with developers to see that new subdivisions or building projects contain adequate facilities and enhance the town's look and traffic flow. Currently, it is dealing with 4 developments for 236 houses.

The Mayor and Town Council appoint Planning & Zoning Commission members, who must live within the town's corporate limits. Its members are Commissioner Tom Brennan, Zoning Administrator Patricia Feeser, Chairperson Dianne Walbrecker, Vice Chair Frank Henry, and Sara Miller. All are volunteers except the Zoning Administrator who is on the town payroll.

Chairperson Walbrecker, a professional writer, became involved with the Commission because of her experiences when she lived in Reston and Manassas, VA. While Reston adhered to a planned vision for their community and prospered, Manassas did not and it deteriorated.

Walbrecker is now engaged in revising Emmitsburg's Comprehensive Plan. This plan serves as a long-range guide for land use, transportation, housing, economic development, and community design, facilities, and services. The Comprehensive Plan is the foundation for strategies to manage growth. It is a living document, intended to be reviewed and possibly updated every 6 years or so. The goals and recommendations in the plan may be driven by the Planning & Zoning Commission or the Town of Emmitsburg, but there is no clear list of priorities in the voluminous document, and they are most often negotiated with developers. The Commission may, for example, approve subdivision plans contingent upon the inclusion of trails for bikers and hikers.

Planning & Zoning showed its ability to be flexible with property owners in its recent work with the Sisters of Mercy. State law prohibit weeds above 18" tall, but environmental experts contend that the weeds located on the Sisters' property act as riparian buffers, filtering impurities and preventing excess erosion of the stream banks. Consequently, the Planning & Zoning is revising town ordinances to allow for the needs of these wetlands.

Dealing with tall weeds can't be compared to the contentious issue of annexation. The recent proposal to annex property for another housing development provoked strong opposition from citizens, who demand that no further development be approved until all of the currently approved housing projects have been completed. A community coalition asked the Town to study the developments' negative impact on traffic, schools and the environment.

One function of Emmitsburg's Planning and Zoning Commission is to inform the public of planning issues and stimulate interest in community planning. Walbrecker says she is eager to receive the community's input as the Comprehensive Plan is being updated. She encourages citizens to participate in Planning & Zoning meetings, held in the Town Office at 7:30 p.m. on the last Monday of the month. She claims to have tried luring people to meetings by offering refreshments, but attendance remains low.

Major plans loom on the horizon, including a visitors' center, historical museum and other tourism-based projects. Emmitsburg's Planning & Zoning Commission meetings are the best opportunity for our citizens to guide the future of Emmitsburg as we celebrate our history and bravely battle the onslaught of urban sprawl.

— Staff writer Patricia A. Bianca contributed to this report.

Ten Commandments displays require Supreme Court ruling

By Bill Steo
Editor

One of the first things Roy Moore did after he was appointed as a judge in Etowah County, AL, in 1992, was to hang a homemade rosewood plaque of the Ten Commandments in his courtroom. Early one morning after he became the chief justice of the state Supreme Court in 2000, he had a 2 1/2-ton stone cube wheeled into his courthouse, without the knowledge of the 8 other justices. It is inscribed with the Ten Commandments and is known locally as "Roy's rock."

Civil liberties groups accused Justice Moore of turning a courthouse into a church and sued to have the 4-foot stone removed from the lobby floor. He argued that the monument did not establish a state religion but merely acknowledged the role God has played throughout the history of American law. He said that it represents the moral foundation of law.

Recently courts in Alabama and Ohio ordered monuments to the Ten Commandments removed from a state courthouse and 4 public schools.

In Kentucky the American Civil Liberties Union has sued Mercer County because it posted the Ten Commandments in a courthouse. The County argues it's also about history. The biblical text there is accompanied by other documents, including the Mayflower Compact, the Bill of Rights and the Magna Carta.

Most courts have said such displays

are intended to promote religion, but some say they also have historical value.

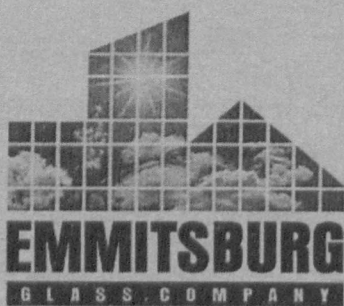
In Texas another federal district court said a 5-foot stone monument to the Ten Commandments could remain near the capitol grounds in Austin. The U.S. District Senior judge said no reasonable person would consider the Texas display a religious endorsement. The Fraternal Order of Eagles donated the monument to promote morality among youths and to curb juvenile delinquency.

As for Chief Justice Moore, a Federal District Court judge ruled, after a week-long trial, that Roy's rock violated the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment which forbids the government to set up a state religion. He called it "an obtrusive year-round religious display intended to proselytize on behalf of a particular religion."

Justice Moore has rejected requests to display other monuments in the courthouse. Under state law he has the courthouse keys and can make that decision. One object he rejected was a plaque of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech. Another was a statue of an atom which an atheist group wanted displayed, presumably because that would not violate the Establishment Clause.

Judicial scholars believe the matter needs a definitive ruling and that this case may reach the U.S. Supreme Court. A very important judge on a very important issue would be appealing to it, saying "I'm Alabama's Chief Justice and I know the law."

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RELIGION

*A word from the pulpit***Expect the Unexpected**

By Pastor Wade Martin
Trinity United Methodist Church

Christ is coming. Are you ready? Much of the New Testament was written against a background of the delayed promise of the return of Christ. Christ had promised to return right away, and the first Christians fully expected him to do so. But as we know, he didn't.

Christians like to gather on Sunday morning, have the organ play the prelude, say the Call to Worship, and then poof! we expect God to show up at 9 sharp for worship, on our terms and at our convenience. Yet God's coming and goings are not subject to our beck and call. God is free, holy, and sovereign, and will not be present to us except as a gift of grace. Therefore anyone who holds onto the Christian faith must be prepared for surprise, for shock, for the grace of not being in control of those things spiritual.

How odd that sometimes we think of church as a place to tie things down, a place for firming up our faith, or a place where we make a final decision for or against Christ. Things are considerably more unpredictable than that because things, at least as they relate to our relationship to God, are in God's hands and not ours. Be prepared for the unexpected; don't be surprised when you are surprised.

Often times the return of Jesus is spoken of as a majestic cosmic event in which the Anointed One descends on clouds from on high. The trumpets will sound, the dead will be raised, and Christ will return. But nestled within the Gospel is another image.

Jesus says that the promised day of the Lord, that climatic ending of the old world and beginning of the new, will take place like a "thief in the night."

Jesus is not saying God is a thief or that God steals, he is simply using thief as a metaphor. A thief does not prepare those he is planning to rob. Surprise, unexpectedness, and shock are typical of robberies. This is true of Jesus as well.

We are in the midst of the Advent season, a time when we prepare for and celebrate the birth and second coming of Christ. The church has always said that Christ's second promised coming will be very much like his first entry into our lives as a child: surprising and unexpected. As a Pastor, I have the opportunity to hear many stories from people about their experiences with God. Although no two stories are the same, because God tends to come into

a person's life in unique ways, there are some common elements.

In many of the stories I have heard God seemed to come to people when they were not prepared, and when they least expected it. They weren't looking for God, they weren't expecting God, and maybe they didn't feel they even needed God. And yet God came to them. Perhaps this ought to tell us that the incursions of God among us are works of God, rather than based on our heightened awareness, our well-developed sensitivity, or even our need for God. After all God is sovereign, free to come and go as God pleases. Therefore intrusions among us are bound to seem surprising and unexpected.

Jesus told us, "I'll be back shortly." But one day passed into another and another, and still Jesus had not returned. People waited. The first generation of Christians gradually died. The length of their wait disappointed people. And perhaps we have grown impatient waiting for Jesus' return as well.

When you think about it, a time of disappointed waiting is the only time the church has ever known. If they got impatient waiting for Jesus for 50 or 60 years after Christ's death, how much greater ought our impatience be with waiting over two thousand years. But to those who had become miserable and disheartened in waiting, Matthew's Gospel says, "Be patient. Hold on. Stay alert. After all, God may come among you like a thief in the night." In other words God may come when you least expect it.

Over the centuries, Christians have grown eager with anticipation, thinking that now at last the time has come, Jesus would return, and God's kingdom would be established. Every time we say the Prayer of Thanksgiving during Holy Communion, we repeat the acclamation, "Christ has died, Christ has risen, Christ will come again." And yet, if he is coming again, then when?

The truth is we don't know the hour or the day of Christ's coming. So if we can't know the hour or the day, scripture tells us to know this. All of this happens "Like a thief in the night." God sneaks up on us like a thief.

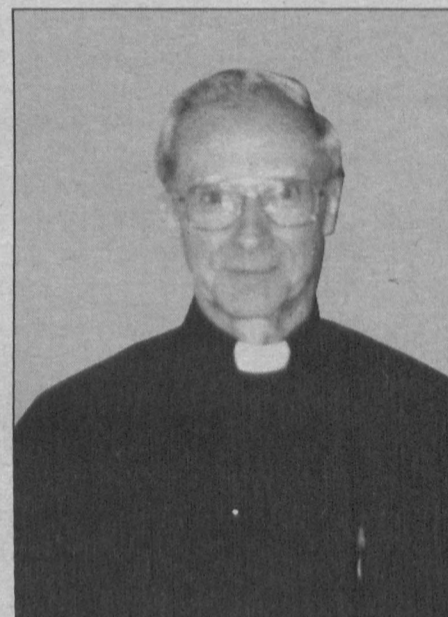
Here is a strange thief, who comes to us, not to rip us off, but to give us what we need. Sometimes things are taken from us like that cherished possession to which we tightly cling, in order that we might be free to live more fully for him. And sometimes, just when we least expect it, this divine

"thief" sneaks in among us and surprises us with gifts we didn't know we wanted or needed.

In listening to people describe God's incursions into their lives, I have often been impressed by the way God gives them deep reassurance, hope, or strength, even when they didn't ask for

any of these gifts. What a great thief!!

This is the season of visions, and unexpected visitations. Keep awake and be prepared. Christ loves to come among us in ways we don't expect; in times that we haven't planned. Expect the unexpected.

After 4 months St. Joseph's pastor still learning

By Susan Allen
Staff writer

Rev. William O'Brien, C.M., has been pastor of St. Joseph's Catholic Church for 4 months now and is still getting to know the parish. He took on this new assignment in late August. "It will take a good while to get the feel of the community, and get to know the people," he says. His previous contact with St. Joseph's congregation had been limited to brief visits, and a prior commitment to a lead pilgrimage took him away from his new parish for 2 weeks in the early fall. So now he is concentrating on getting to know his new church family.

Father O'Brien says he intends to continue programs begun by his predecessor, Rev. James Kiernan, C.M. St. Joseph's is an active parish, with a relatively high attendance at Mass, the Church's main worship service. He believes one project in particular will aid his efforts to become familiar with the parish: home visitations. There are more than 600 families registered in the parish.

Two years ago Rev. Kiernan and associate pastor, Rev. Stephen Trzeciecki began visiting all parishioners who accepted the offer of a visitation. This effort to reach out personally to parishioners, to exchange concerns and suggestions about the life of the church, is important, Fr. O'Brien says, for its potential to move members to participate in Mass, other worship

services, and in the various ministries at St. Joseph's.

Rev. O'Brien said declining church attendance is due at least in part to the general secularization of American culture and a "falling away from the former sense of obligation" to attend Mass. The Church and its pastors need to re-emphasize the importance of being part of a "spiritual community of believers."

Another aspect of "community building" is directed toward Catholic youth. St. Joseph's Church now shares a youth minister, Mrs. Nancy Golowski, with St. Anthony/Our Lady of Mt. Carmel parishes. After Confirmation, when young people are initiated into a "new beginning," as adult Christians, in the Church, students are encouraged to join the youth group for social and spiritual activities. A pizza party for youths from all 3 churches is on the calendar. The youths are welcome to participate in worship services as ushers, lay readers, musicians, and community volunteers.

Rev. O'Brien is enthusiastic about the interfaith parish nurse ministry. Although St. Joseph's clergy already make weekly visits to elderly and home-bound members of their congregation, parish nurses complement their work, spiritually as well as in other ways. Rev. O'Brien and his former congregation at Niagara Falls, NY, participated in a number of interfaith activities, and he looks forward to greater involvement with the Emmitsburg Council of Churches. He will deliver the New Testament lesson and the sermon/homily at the Emmitsburg Community Thanksgiving Day service on Nov. 28th.

St. Joseph's Church, and the Archdiocese of Baltimore, have a stewardship campaign underway now. "Too often," said Father O'Brien, "stewardship is defined only in financial terms, which, while necessary, is not the only, and perhaps not even the most important, aspect of stewardship." A renewed emphasis on "sacrificial giving" will also include giving one's time and talents to the Church. A questionnaire is being circulated in the

Continued on page 8

Candlelight tour of churches

It is 5 p.m., Dec. 29, the Sunday after Christmas. A congregation gathers from all the churches in the Emmitsburg area at Tom's Creek United Methodist Church.

Starting here, several miles east of Emmitsburg on Tom's Creek Church Road, the worshippers proceed to St. Anthony's Shrine Parish on St. Anthony's Road, then on to the United Presbyterian Church at the west end of Emmitsburg.

They continue east on Main Street, stopping at each church along the way and stop finally at St. Joseph's Parish Hall on DePaul St. for light refreshments.

Along the way they will have enjoyed Christmas ministry programs at participating churches and in others viewed sanctuaries with all their seasonal decorations.

This is the annual Candlelight Tour of the Emmitsburg Community

Churches, which all have rich historical backgrounds dating back to the mid-eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. The Tour is sponsored by the Emmitsburg Council of Churches. It has invited everyone.

Maps with the locations of the community churches are available at the first stop on the tour.

Schedule
 5 p.m. Tom's Creek United Methodist Church, program
 5-6 St. Anthony's Shrine Parish, open for viewing
 5:30-6:30 Basilica St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, open for viewing
 6-7 United Presbyterian Church, open for viewing
 6:30 Trinity United Methodist Church, program
 7 Incarnation United Church of Christ, program
 7 Elias Lutheran Church, program
 7-8 St. Joseph's Catholic Church, open for viewing
 8 St. Joseph's Parish Hall, refreshments.

Need help for Christmas?

Apply at The Salvation Army
 223 West 5th St., Frederick, MD,
 between 9 a.m. and 12 noon
 Dec. 2 to 6. Also, 6-8 p.m. Dec. 2
 Bring all the following

- Proof of all income and bills in the household
- Picture ID for person applying
- Social Security cards for all adults and each child in household.;
- Birth certificates or medical card with DOB for each child
- Clothing and shoe sizes for each child

You must have all this information with you.

O'Brien

Continue from page 7

congregation, assessing volunteer interests and availability.

Father O'Brien is a member of the Congregation of the Mission (C.M.), an order known more familiarly as the Vincentians, after its founder, St. Vincent de Paul. They have served as the pastors of St. Joseph's Church since 1852. He has held several local ministry and administrative and

fundraising positions within the Catholic Church. His last assignment as a pastor was in Niagara Falls, NY, from 1983 to 1996. Before coming to St. Joseph's he served in Philadelphia in the development office for the eastern province of the Congregation of the Mission and as Director of the Central Association of the Miraculous Medal. The Vincentians generally set terms of office for pastors and associates, usually 6 years with a possible renewal for another 6 years.

Growth and decline in American churches

Staff report

The fastest-growing religious denomination in the last 10 years was the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints; it appears from a survey by Glenmary Research Center. Its thousands of young Mormon missionaries recruit door to door and are credited with boosting its U.S. membership by 19.3 percent since 1990. It now has 4.2 million members.

The next highest growth was recorded by the conservative Christian Churches and Churches of Christ: 18.6 percent; the Assemblies of God: 18.5 percent; and the Roman Catholic Church: 16.2 percent.

The churches whose membership declined the most are judged to be moderate or liberal. A sociologist observed: "The more liberal the denomination, by most people's definition, the more they were losing." The churches that lost the highest percentages of members were the Presbyterian Church SA (11.6 percent) and the United Church of Christ (14.8 percent).

The Catholic Church is still the

nation's largest, with more than 62 million members, about 25 percent of the U.S. population. In the last 10 years, the study found, many Catholics moved from the Northeast and the Midwest to the South and Southwest.

The next largest denomination is the Southern Baptists, with nearly 20 million members. Protestant churches together reported 66 million members.

The highest percentages of religious adherents are in Utah, North Dakota and the District of Columbia; the lowest in Oregon and Washington.

The survey findings derive from self-reporting by religious groups, a method that its authors acknowledge is imprecise because religious groups can inflate their numbers. Yet scholars judge it to contain the most comprehensive information available about changes in religious affiliation, because the Census Bureau does not ask about religion.

Glenmary's study is called, "Religious Congregations and Membership: 2000." It was sponsored by the Association of Statisticians of American Religious Bodies.

A word about pre-arrangements and pre-financing



The funeral serves a wide range of purposes, with religious, psychological, and physical significance. 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.

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Emmitsburg Area Churches

Incarnation United Church of Christ

Founded in 1758 as a German Reformed Congregation. In 1860's the church moved into town. The current brick building was rebuilt after a fire in 1950. The current congregation is now UCC.

124 West Main St.
 Sunday service: 10 a.m.

Interim Pastor: Rev. Ted Haas
 301-447-2270

St. Joseph's Roman Catholic

St. Joseph's Parish dates its beginning to 1786. Rev. Matthew Ryan was the first resident Pastor. The Parish has been administered by the Vincentian Community since 1852. The present church was completed in 1842.

100 N. Seton Avenue

Weekly services: Monday - 7:30

p.m. (with the Miraculous Medal Novena); Tuesday through Saturday - 8:30 a.m.; Saturday Evening - 4:30 p.m.; Sundays - 8:00, 10:15, 12:00 noon.

Pastor: Rev. William O'Brien, C.M.
 301-447-2326

St. Anthony Shrine

St. Anthony's roots intertwine with the old St. Mary's on the Hill and date back to the 1700s. Our present church, St. Anthony Shrine, opened its doors on October 26, 1897.

16150 St. Anthony's Road
 Mass schedule: Saturday, 4:00 p.m., Sunday, 7:00 a.m. & 9:30 a.m.

Pastor: Rev. James W. Hannon

Trinity United Methodist Church

Trinity United Methodist Church was founded in 1833. The present sanctuary was built in 1807. Trinity has been

a religious presence in Emmitsburg for 168 years.

313 West Main St.

Services 9:00 a.m. Sunday School, 10 a.m.

Pastor: Rev. Wade A. Martin

Emmitsburg Presbyterian

Emmitsburg Presbyterian Church has been a part of the Emmitsburg Community since before the American Revolution. The original meeting house stood about a mile north of Emmitsburg along the Gettysburg Rd. The grave of Samuel Emmitt, founder of Emmitsburg, is located in the old cemetery.

415 West Main St.

Service 11:00 a.m.

Pastor: Rev. R. Benjamin Jones

Tom's Creek United Methodist

10926 Simmons Road

Sunday Services at 8:15 and 10:30
 Pastor: Rev. Bill Warehime
 301-447-2693

Elias Evangelical Lutheran

In 1797 the Lutheran and Reformed congregations built a sanctuary in Emmitsburg after they outgrew their shared church at Tom's Creek. The Reformed congregation constructed a new church in 1869 on West Main Street while the Lutherans remained in the stone church where they continue to worship today.

100 West North Avenue
 Sunday School, 9 a.m.

Worship Service

(Holy Communion) 10:30 a.m.

Interim Pastor: David. S. Knodel

301-447-6239

OBITUARIES



Mrs. Mary Boyle

Mrs. Mary E. Boyle, 93, died Nov. 18 at St. Catherine's Nursing Center. She was the wife of Bernard Hugh Boyle, who died Aug. 29, 1994. Born in Emmitsburg she was a daughter of the late William Henry and Luc Lawrence Bollinger.

Mrs. Boyle was a member of St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church. She was active in the PTA at St. Joseph's High School in fund-raising. She was a homemaker but in May 1933, she joined her husband to open the B.H. Boyle & Sons grocery store in town, which they operated for 50 years.

Surviving are 4 children, Anna Marie Koontz, Loretta B. Sprankle, Patrick B. Boyle, and Leo M. Boyle, also 15 grandchildren, 29 great-grandchildren; 5 great-great-grandchildren; and a number of nieces and nephews. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at her parish church, St. Joseph's. Her pastor, the Rev. William O'Brien, as the celebrant.

Mr. William Carbaugh

Mr. William King George Carbaugh, 59, of 436 E. Main St., died Nov. 12 at his residence.

Born March 2, 1943, in Frederick Co., he was a son of the late John Jacob and Grace May Morningstar Carbaugh Sr. He enjoyed hunting and fishing. He provided home health care for his parents until their death, and later for his sisters and brothers. Surviving are 2 sisters, Julie B. Titman and Lilly L. Beall, and one brother, James R. Carbaugh.

Mrs. Edna Crouse

Mrs. Edna E. Crouse, 89, of Thurmont, died, Oct. 29, at Gettysburg Hospital. She was the wife of Walter F. Crouse, her husband of 42 years, who died in 1985. Born in Cove Gap, PA., she was a daughter of the late Raymond and Carrie Reeder Hill.

Mrs. Crouse graduated from the Episcopal Hospital School of Nursing in Philadelphia in 1935 and worked on the nursing staff at Warner Hospital, Gettysburg 12 years. On April 2, 1946 she and her husband opened "Crouse's on the Square" variety store in Emmitsburg. She continued to operate

the store through August 2002.

Mrs. Crouse was a member of Incarnation United Church of Christ. Surviving are one daughter, Susan Free, one sister, Cecyl Simon, one brother, Robert Hill. Rev. Ted Haas officiated at funeral services at Stauffer Funeral Home, Thurmont.

Mr. Brooke Damuth

Mr. Brooke James Damuth, 70, Oct. 25 at his home. He was the husband of Cecelia Rose Green Damuth, his wife of 40 years. Born in Emmitsburg, he was the son of the late Lester Earl Sr. and Reaba Ruth Poole Damuth. Mr. Damuth served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War.

He was both a life and active member of Vigilant Hose Co.

Surviving in addition to his wife are one son, Kevin W. Damuth, 5 brothers and sisters, Ruth A. Slonaker, Lester E. Damuth, Jr., George J. Damuth, Arthur J. Damuth, and Nora B. Fisher. A memorial service was held at Tom's Creek United Methodist Church by Pastor, the Rev. Bill Warehime, and the Rev. Jeffrey D. Gehris, of Graceham-Moravian Church, Thurmont.

Mrs. Carrie Hahn

Mrs. Carrie Elizabeth Andrew Hahn, 88, died Nov. 8 at Citizens Nursing Home, Frederick.

She was the wife of Clarence E. Hahn, who died in 1978. Born in Ringold, PA., she was a daughter of the late George W. Andrew and Rose Edith Harbaugh Andrew. She was a member of Elias Evangelical Lutheran Church. Surviving are 5 children, Mary H. Rohrbaugh, Carrie E. Boyd, Lewis E. Hahn, Shirley A. Pittinger, and Alfred C. Hahn, and one brother, Daniel Andrew. Her pastor, the Rev. David S. Knodel, officiated at funeral services at Elias Evangelical Lutheran Church

Mr. Ralph Hankey Sr.

Mr. Ralph Lester Hankey, Sr., 77, died Oct. 28 at Gettysburg Hospital. He was the husband of Grace Evelyn Rhodes Hankey. Born in Creagerstown, he was a son of the late Roy Wesley and Mary Fisher Hankey. He served in the U.S. Navy during World War II and worked as an electrician at Fort Detrick for many years.

Surviving in addition to his wife are 6 children, Ralph L. Hankey, Jr., Robert W. Hankey, John L. Hankey, Stephen G. Hankey, Mary Smith, and Crystal Heward. Funeral services were will be held at Skiles Funeral Home. Deacon Charles E. Barnhart, from Keysville Lutheran Church officiated.

Mr. William Joy

Mr. William Patrick Joy, 62, died Nov. 11 at Beverly Health Care, Frederick.

Born in Washington, he was a son of the late Hubert Leon and Gertrude Sebold Joy.

He was born with down syndrome and was cared for by his mother and family until his 40th birthday. During his later years, he was a resident of Med Source Community Services, Frederick.

He was a member of St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church.

Mr. Joy is survived by 2 sisters, Gloria Joy Bauerline and Dolores Joy Henke, and 4 brothers, Joseph C. Joy, Donald V. Joy, Jerry Joy, and Michael Joy. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church, by the Rev. Dr. David W. Shaum

Mrs. Blanche Kepner

Mrs. Blanche Veronica Eyler Mullen Kepner, 98, died Oct. 22 at Williamsport Nursing Home. Her husbands, Joseph Edgar Mullen and Ellis James Kepner are deceased. Born in Emmitsburg, she was a daughter of the late John Calvin and Mary Hartdagen Eyler. Mrs. Kepner was a member of St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church.

Surviving are 3 daughters, Mary Theresa Weikert, Carolene V. Adelsberger, and L. Ann Valentine. Christian Wake services were held at Skiles Funeral Home and a Mass of Christian Burial celebrated at St. Joseph's Catholic Church.

Mr. Jonathan Rose

Mr. Jonathan Eric "Jon" "Marshmallow" Rose, 17, died Oct. 25 in Emmitsburg.

He was the son of Paul Francis and Jeanette Breeden Rose of Emmitsburg. He was a devoted Christian and a member of Tom's Creek United Methodist Church. Very gentle and kind, he loved nature, and to dance, work on his computer and play video games. He was a senior at Catocin High School.

Surviving besides his parents are 2 brothers, Chris and Ben Rose, his grandparents, numerous aunts, uncles and cousins, and his devoted friend, Cecilia Randall. Funeral services were held at Stauffer Funeral Home, with his minister, the Rev. Bill Warehime, officiating.

Mr. Charles Rosensteel

Mr. Charles A. Rosensteel, 70, died Nov. 19 at Paoli Memorial Hospital. He was the husband of Louise C. Erickson. Born in Emmitsburg, he was the son of the late Allen C. Rosensteel and Laura G. Topper. Surviving beside his wife were 8 children, Barbara Rouzer, Ronald Rosensteel, James Rosensteel., William Rosensteel, Coanne Luckenbill, Kenneth McNiff, Kimberly Witzig, Karalyn Kempinski, one brother, Eugene Rosensteel, and 3 sisters, Mary Theresa Miller, Pauline Lentz, and Trudy Baker. A memorial service was held at United Methodist Church

of Downingtown.

Mr. Fred Stambaugh

Mr. Fred G. Stambaugh, 66, died Nov. 16 at Village of Laurel Run, Fayetteville, PA.

He was the husband of Velma Glass Stambaugh, his wife of 40 years. Born in the Emmitsburg area, he was a son of the late Charles R. and Opal Long Stambaugh. He was a member of Toms Creek United Methodist Church. He served in the U.S. Air Force from 1956 to 1963, and was commissioned to serve as honor guard for Presidents Eisenhower and Kennedy.

Surviving in addition to his wife are 2 children, Sandra Shriner and Scott D. Stambaugh, one granddaughter, Kathryn Shriner, 2 sisters, Frances Reynolds and Betty Eyler, 3 brothers, Charles Stambaugh, Kenneth Stambaugh, and Richard Stambaugh. Funeral services were held at Toms Creek United Methodist Church, with his pastor, the Rev. William Warehime, officiating.

Mrs. Barbara Vaughn

Mrs. Barbara "Bobbie" Vaughn, 72, Nov. 20 at her home. She was the wife of Lloyd Kenneth Vaughn. Born in Emmitsburg, she was a daughter of the late Bernard and Gertrude Bowling Peters. She had worked as a secretary a Mt. St. Mary's College.

Surviving in addition to her husband are 7 children, Debbie Wivell, David Vaughn, Donna Seiss, Dennis Vaughn, Douglas Vaughn, Dwayne Vaughn, and Deana Szymanski; and one sister, Sister Baptista Peters, DC. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at St. Joseph's Catholic Church, with pastor, the Rev. William O'Brien, as celebrant.

Mr. Russell Wivell

Mr. Russell Alan Wivell, 21, Nov. 13 as a result of an automobile accident. He was a son of Roy J. and Rose Fisher Wivell, Jr. He was a member of St. Anthony's Shrine parish.

Surviving in addition to his parents are one sister, Kimberly-M. Wivell; 2 brothers, Jason M. Wivell and Joshua R. Wivell. A Mass of Christian burial was celebrated at St. Anthony's with his pastor, the Rev. James Hannon, as celebrant.

Mrs. Alice Wood

Mrs. Alice Agnes Wood, 92, died Nov. 6 at Pleasant View Nursing Center, Mount Airy.

She was the wife of the late William Garland Wood. Born in Emmitsburg, she was the daughter of the late Jacob and Ada Wagaman Topper. Surviving are 2 daughters, Nancy Clare Kramer and Mary Elizabeth Burns

A funeral Mass was celebrated at Old St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church, Sykesville, with the Rev. Paul Reich as celebrant.

EDUCATION

Iraq, inspections, war; HS students speak out

By Nicole Georgoff
Staff writer

There is tension coursing through our country while we wait to learn how Iraq responds to weapons inspectors searching for weapons of mass destruction. All over the newspapers, throughout magazines, and on every newscast someone is talking about it. Government officials, representatives from other countries, and others of high rank have been speaking on the issue for months now. They tell us what the President thinks, and what the government thinks, but there is another group of citizens who are unheard from.

Students in high school don't get to be on the newscasts, or write for magazines, but they do have feelings on the subject. So what do they think? They've all heard about the plan to invade Iraq, and they all understand that there has been an ultimatum given to the Iraqi government, but it seems that some understand it better than others. They all know that if Iraq doesn't comply with the demands of the United Nations, there will be an attack.

There are students who agree that this is a good idea, like Brock Gregory, a junior at Catoctin High School. He said, "Yes, it's a good idea because we

need to get rid of all the evil." James Robinson, a sophomore, also agreed that the plan the President has created is a good one.

There are also students who feel it is a good idea, but are wary of committing to an attack. Dennis Hill, also a junior at Catoctin said, "I agree, and think it is a good idea. Hopefully it isn't necessary, but if they won't let us, then I think we should go to war with Iraq."

Then there are students who believe we shouldn't get involved. Carrie Schildt said, "I think that we should mind our own business and not go starting a war just because they wouldn't do as we ask when we had no right to ask in the first place."

Another student said, "I think that we need to focus on protecting our country and right now Saddam Hussein is presenting the most obvious danger to our nation. Osama Bin Laden and Al-Queda are still a threat to our nation, but right now I think it's important that we focus on Iraq."

Nikki Cassidy, a senior at Catoctin, who has a friend in the military, said, "I think that we need to do something about them, but I don't necessarily think this will be the best thing for our nation."

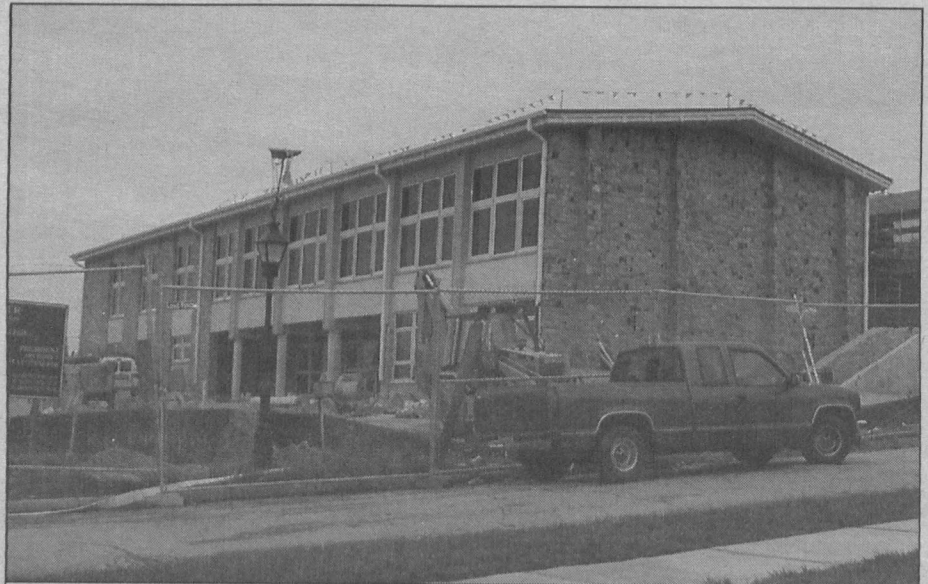
Students also believe it is important that we have the support of other

nations if we decide to attack Iraq. Some students did not want to be named. One said, "In times like this, it pays to have allies," while another said, "We support them and they should support us." Another student said, "I think it would be hard to go to war without support of other nations. With other nations fighting with us, it will make it easier to win the war and solve this problem."

So while the government officials speak about their opinion and speak on

behalf of the government, students are forming their own opinions and having their own feelings. War with Iraq may be necessary, and we do need the support of other countries. While Osama Bin Laden and Al-Queda may still be in the back of their minds, the situation with Saddam Hussein and Iraq seems to be dominant in students' thoughts about war and our relationship with the Middle East.

—Nicole Georgoff is a student at Catoctin High School



The McGowan Campus Center at the Mount will house student activities offices, a graphics computer lab, centralized student services, and expanded dining options that the Mount says, "better fit the way students work and live." Construction of the 36,500 square-foot addition to Cogan Student Union Building (to be renamed "Cogan Hall") is expected to be completed early next year. The Center is named in honor of the late William G. McGowan, founder of MCI.

Aspiring teachers who work can get certified at the Mount

By Bill Steo
Editor

Aspiring teachers who work in the daytime will be able to obtain both a master's degree from Mount St. Mary's College, and a license to teach in 4 different fields. Beginning in January the College will offer 4 new programs in education, leading to the Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT) degree with certification for public school teaching.

The programs, offered at night and on weekends, are designed for those

who do not have a degree or background in education. With these courses they can fulfill the education requirements for certification to teach in Maryland.

The MAT programs and credits required are: Elementary Education (46), Elementary & Special Education (55), Secondary Teaching (40 credits in Biology, Business Education, English, French, German, Latin, Mathematics, Social Studies, and Spanish); also: a Master of Arts (MA) in Art Education (40)

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Mount Saint Mary's News

By S.L. Day
Campus correspondent

Anti-war gatherings

Forums and presentations on the possible war against Iraq have taken place at the Mount over the past few weeks. The "Mirror of Truth" bus tour arrived on campus for an Oct. 31 presentation about the hardships suffered by Iraqi people. Several of the tour members have visited the Arab nation during the past few years.

Tour members told students that President George Bush's "belligerent" attitude toward Iraq is wrong and that the Iraqi people are barely surviving due to the UN sanctions imposed following the Gulf War.

A "Faith Forum," sponsored by the Office of Campus Ministry, which took place on Oct. 4, also addressed the possibility of war with Iraq, as well as the Catholic view of just war theory. About 50 students, seminarians and faculty members participated in the event.

A case of chicken pox

Chicken Pox has surfaced at the Mount. The campus Wellness Center emailed a health alert to students and staff on Nov. 18, informing them that a student was diagnosed with the sickness in mid-November.

The student has since been removed from his dormitory and is undergoing treatment.

The illness, which usually afflicts young children before the age of 10, can be serious if contracted during adulthood. Pregnant women, individuals with immune-deficiencies and those who have not had chicken pox are at heightened risk of contracting the illness. A vaccine is available.

Prof funds students' ideas

Mount adjunct professor and Frederick businessman John Laughlin agreed to commit up to \$50,000 to his MBA Entrepreneurship class if they come up with a good enough idea for a new business. He teaches at the Mount's Frederick campus on Spectrum Drive, made a similar commitment earlier this year to his undergraduate Entrepreneurship class.

Students in the undergraduate class established Evergreen Charities,

Inc., a company designed to help charities fund their projects. The company is waiting for final IRS-regulatory approval for non-profit status.

Almost a dozen students from the undergraduate class have remained with the company, including one who serves as chief executive officer.

Laughlin said he expects to be repaid if his class's business idea takes off and the company becomes successful. If the business fails, however, he said he simply loses the money.

Search for MSM president

Three candidates are vying to be the next president of Mount St. Mary's College, and the decision of who will succeed George Houston is expected within the next few months.

Thomas H. Powell, president of Glenville State College in West Virginia, visited the Mount on Nov. 19, while John B. Oblak, president of Notre Dame de Namur University in California, visited campus on Nov. 22. A third candidate, whose identity has yet to be revealed, is expected to visit on Dec. 5.

BB sniper at Mount

A freshman student is under investigation for allegedly firing a BB gun from his dormitory window at several Mount students.

One victim was apparently shot in the head but was not seriously wounded. Neither of the 2 other students who were hit was seriously hurt. A fourth student narrowly missed being shot while standing in a parking lot.

Michael Zoll, dean of student life, said that the college has not filed charges against the student and that he was unaware if any of the victims had filed charges with police.

The suspect is no longer living on campus, but is still attending classes.

Dorm fire investigated

Local authorities have arrested a Mount freshman for a suspected arson in Sheridan Hall more than a month ago the student, who then lived in the hall, was arrested on Oct. 29 and charged with first degree arson, second degree malicious destruction of property and 5 counts of reckless endangerment.

Web for students

Guide to grammar, writing

No matter what subject you are working on, grammar is an essential part of writing. So where can you go to get all your questions answered? To a site called "Guide to Grammar and Writing," <http://webster.commnet.edu/grammar/>

It's a site dedicated to all aspects of grammar. The site has 5 categories each filled with sub-topics. There are also pages on how to overcome writer's block, on using the right tone, how to create an outline, editing your paper, and thesis statements.

The site is pretty easy to navigate. Just find your sub-topic under the right heading, click, and you're there. The pages are pretty detailed, so you'll

probably have to scroll through to find just what you're looking for.

Although it offers a wide variety of grammar topics and has a search function, which is a sub-topic under "Ask Grammar, Quizzes, Search Devices," it isn't easy to find the answers to very specific questions. Usually the site will come up with many different results, and it can be very time-consuming to sort through them until you find the one you need, if you can find it at all.

Overall, this site is relatively easy to use, with only a few things that might make you feel like you're wasting time. The final grade: A-

—Nicole Georgoff
Staff writer

December at the Library

Regular Story times

Two Terrific! (age 2 with an adult) Tuesdays, Dec. 3, 10, and 17 at 10:30 a.m. *Preschool Storytime* (ages 3-5 with an adult) Wednesdays at 7 p.m. and Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. Please note that the Library will be closed on Dec. 24 and 25, we will not have story-time that week.

For Teens

Make it and take it craft (6th grade and up) Wed., Dec. 11 at 5 p.m. Make a functional and beautiful gift for the holidays. Registration required. *

Special Programs

Children's Holiday Tea Party (all ages) Join us for an annual tradition. Old fashioned games, music, and sto-

ries followed by tea and cookies. Sat., Dec. 7 at 10:30 p.m. Registration required. *

Book Discussion Groups

Evening Club: 2nd Tuesdays, Dec. 10 at 7:30 p.m. Selection: *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn* by Betty Smith. *Afternoon Club:* 2nd Fridays, Dec. 13 at 1 p.m. Check with the library for December's selection.

Programs are held at the Emmitsburg Library at 101 Silohill Road unless designated by an asterisk. Those programs will be held at Trinity United Methodist Church, 313 West Main Street. Registration or information: 301-447-2682

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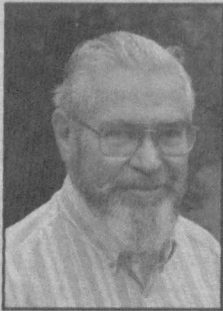
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The (retired) Ecologist's Corner

Requiem for U.S. Route 40



By Bill Meredith
Dispatch Writer

Even if some day I become so senile that I cannot remember my name, I will still remember our first trip to Emmitsburg. We left the University in Morgantown, WV, around 4 a.m. that day in April, 1957, and headed east on Route 40 toward this pinpoint on the map where, I had been assured, Mount St. Mary's College was located. I had studied the map for days, and carefully added up the mileage... about 200 miles... and divided by 35 mph, which I reckoned was a conservative estimate of the speed that would get us there in time for my 10 a.m. job interview.

But I hadn't allowed for the number of times a 6-week old baby would have to be changed, or the length of the train that held us up while it crossed the main street in Cumberland, or a broken radiator hose, or the effect mountain roads would have on a nervous young wife's stomach. We were lucky to be no

more than 2 hours late when we pulled up to the terrace at the college to face Father Gordon. It had taken us over 8 hours to get there.

All of that recurred in my mind this fall, when my wife and I returned to our old hometown to attend a wedding. We had not been back for several years. I knew the old Rt. 40 had been replaced by Interstate routes 70 and 68, but I still had in mind those days when the kids' perennial question, "How much longer till we're there?" could be answered, "Six hours," without exaggeration. We got on I-70 east of Hagerstown, set the cruise control on 65, and kept one eye on the rearview mirror to avoid being run over from behind as we proceeded westward; and we arrived in Fairmont in about 3 hours.

I have to admit, with a twinge of guilt, that I enjoy driving on the interstates. I appreciate getting where I'm going quickly; I will never forget the panic I felt that day, 45 years ago, seeing the hands of my watch speeding around as we crept up Polish Mountain behind a line of trucks with the baby crying and my wife trying desperately not to throw up before we found a place to pull off. And I enjoy the scenery; that incredible geosyncline that was exposed when they cut through the top of Sideling Hill Mountain is worth a

thousand pictures in geology textbooks. Nevertheless, the new roads make me uneasy. Their graded curves and gentle inclines make driving more comfortable; but I get the feeling it will only be a matter of time until the whole country will be flattened out by giant earth-movers, and all roads will run straight east-west or north-south. I'm not sure it's a good trade-off.

In spite of the extra time it took, I think there was value in going over the mountains instead of through them. In the old days, you knew when you were going up a mountain; you had to gear down and pay attention. When you got to the top, there would be a sign giving its name and elevation; you learned some geography. My kids could recite the names: Cooper's Rock, Keyser's Ridge, Big Savage, Martin, Polish, Green Ridge, Town Hill, Sideling Hill, Catocin... it gave us a way to keep them occupied during that interminable drive, and today the habit of noticing things is being passed on to their children. The mountains had something to teach us.

The old Route 40 approximated the road laid out by George Washington when he set out to survey the way west for Gen. Braddock's army in 1755. Considering the problems involved in getting an army through a virgin forest in mountainous terrain, no one can blame George for taking the path of least resistance. So he went along stream banks whenever he could, and when it got steep he would sidle up the mountains at an oblique angle instead of trying to go straight over the tops of them. Perhaps with a premonition of what lay ahead, Braddock doesn't seem to have been in any hurry. Some of his campsites were marked along the old Rt. 40 west of Big Savage Mountain; I used to point them out to the kids on the way home for holidays. Some of them were barely 5 miles apart, and that was on fairly level ground. I've always wondered how long it took *them* to get over Polish Mountain!

Washington's route was sufficient for the next 175 years. As the country grew, it became the Cumberland Road, the main way west through the mountains and on to Ohio; and later, when paving became fashionable, it was the National Turnpike. It was widened, of course, and the grade was improved here and there, but it wasn't until the late 1920's that automobiles began to demand really significant changes. In the 1930's they began paving country roads and assigning U. S. Highway numbers, partly to speed up travel and partly to create jobs; but even then, in the main, they continued to follow the original trail. It wasn't until after World War II that the entire public began demanding roads on which they could exercise their new-found birthright of driving over 50 mph for long periods of

time. That, and the need to transport goods between explosively growing metropolitan centers, led to the creation of the Interstate Highway system... and the demise of Rt. 40 and its kin.

The bureaucrats and engineers of the Eisenhower Administration designed the Interstate system to have beltways so long-distance traffic could save time by going around large cities. It was a nice idea; but the designers did not foresee that those beltways would also provide a means for people who had jobs downtown to move from the inner city to the country and still get to work on time. The result was twofold. When the working folks moved outward, they took their money with them; urban decay accelerated. And a major ecological problem, urban sprawl, was born. Forests and farmland have disappeared along an increasingly wide swath as developers convert Emmitsburg and its sister towns into cookie-cutter bedroom communities for Washington, DC, and Baltimore.

We are rapidly losing our individuality as we are swallowed up into the growing megalopolis that extends from Richmond to Boston. And the dwindling space available to wildlife is being carved into smaller and smaller islands, between which predatory traffic efficiently eliminates any animal that dares try to cross.

I know the clock cannot be turned back. And when I go to Cumberland to visit my grandchildren, I am glad to be able to get there in two hours instead of four. But one of these days I would like to turn off the Interstate at Flintstone, and see if I can find where the old Rt. 40 went up Polish Mountain. If it's still open, I will go to the place on that hair-pin curve where we found a rickety picnic table and stopped to nurse the baby and let the car cool off while we waited for the line of trucks ahead of us to get past the worst of the curves. It may have taken longer, those 45 years ago, but we did get to where we had to go; and I got the job despite being late, because everyone understood. I liked the world better when it was like that.

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Brothers learn it's not their Middle Creek any more

By Jack Deatherage, Jr.
Dispatch writer

Brother Mike suggested we walk upstream from the US 140 bridge that crosses Middle Creek about a mile east of Emmitsburg. Mostly he wanted to capture his childhood. But he also wanted to show me how much better a fisherman he had become since we'd last waded together.

We had lived in the brick house before the bridge up until 1979. During the 10 years and 11 months we lived, there the Deatherage kids considered Middle Creek to be as much home as the house was. We caught tadpoles, frogs, bass, bluegills, catfish, eels, turtles, and snakes in the little creek during the spring and summer. In the cold

snowless winters we bruised knees and scrapped skin on the frozen stream. We also watched in frustration the suckers swimming just below the ice that we couldn't chop through to snag them. We caught pigeons and crayfish from under the bridge.

Our first campouts were on sandbars along the water's edge. We ate ash-coated bacon, eggs and half-cooked fish. We brought our friends to fish and hunt along the banks and in nearby fields. We watched cranes, storks, wood ducks and mallards cruise the creek for food and nesting areas. We tossed sticks into the fast ripples and ran along the banks pretending we were in out-of-control ships hurled at the mercy of the gods to some eventual doom as a fence stopped our landlocked pursuit.

We flipped over dry cow pies looking for earthworms to use as fish bait. We ran along the cow paths that followed the creek on either bank, often fleeing thunderstorms that swept over Emmitsburg and caught us absorbed with some bug, oblivious to all around

us until the lightning crashed within yards.

Everything happened around that creek.

So, "Yeah," I said. As we grab our fishing rods. "This will be great."

We fished without luck as far as the old swimming hole. Then we decided to walk back through the field. Ha! Multiflora roses and brambles were as high as our heads tangling through

weeds taller yet! The cedar trees that had been waist high last we walked the banks were 15 or more feet high. We were forced back into the creek to return to the bridge.

It isn't our creek now.

I wonder how Mom's generation feels when they see what has become of their favorite places.

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HEALTH & FITNESS

A word from the doctor

How to protect mental health during holiday seasons

By Ray Rother, Ph.D.

Holidays can be the best of times and the worst of times for mental health. Our expectations of unconditional love and giving, of warmly supportive family gatherings, and of spiritual communion may sometimes contrast with the reality of experienced cynicism, isolation, and despair. The depression and anxiety that many people feel at this time of year are often linked to this contrast between expectations and reality.

Change expectations? The choices to protect our mental health for the holidays are two; change our expectations or change reality! There is a sense of holiday magic that fuels our expectations of the perfect gift, or the conversion of an alcoholic or an abusive family member. Media advertising supports the notion that if we spend more, decorate more and do more, our most glowing expectations will be fulfilled.

Changing our expectations begins with the recognition that the holidays

are about a season, not a day. Each faith's holiday recognizes an event, and our mindful preparation for the event is necessary for our expectations to be realized. But we need to avoid the holiday countdown and our belief that if we make the day perfect, all will be well.

We also need to change our expectation that we can control other people's experience of the holiday. We can be thoughtful in creating an environment that reflects the values of the holiday season, but reconciling alienated family members, healing a loved one's illness or opening Scrooge's heart, requires a power beyond our own.

Change reality? Changing reality requires nothing more than imagination and a willingness to try something new. Have a family meeting and ask each person to pick a favorite family activity during the holiday season. These become the priorities and will be remembered years after number one on Santa's wish list is forgotten.

Create rituals appropriate to the

current situation. Decide on rituals that can be started by a single parent family, a widowed adult, or a family whose in-laws hate each other. We profit by remembering departed loved ones and lost ideal families, but we lose when we hold fast to traditions that can no longer work. ones in these new traditions by including a special ornament, picture, or prayer. New traditions might involve reaching out to others by helping people in need or also by including them in our holiday plans.

Physical health affects mental health. Make it part of the holidays instead of waiting for a New Year's resolution to begin a healthy habit. Exercise, adequate sleep and reason-

able nutrition, especially reduced alcohol and sugar, will increase resistance to seasonal stress. (See article by Linda Stultz in this issue.)

Many of the faith-based holidays we celebrate at this time of year commemorate miracles like the birth of God as a man or a lamp that burned for 8 days after the oil should have run out. By managing our expectations and practices this holiday season, we can preserve our mental health and allow ourselves to be aware of the miracles occurring now.

Ray Rother is the program supervisor for Catholic Charities, Frederick Co. and an associate therapist at the Center for Integrative Healthcare.

Americans' Health Dramatically Improving

By Patricia A. Bianca
Staff Writer

According to the U.S. Health and Human Services Agency, Americans have enjoyed dramatic improvements in health over the last 50 years. In the newly released study, HHS Secretary Tommy G. Thompson attributes the improvements to our efforts in combating diseases, making workplaces safer and avoiding risky behaviors such as smoking.

Overall, life expectancy has peaked at almost 77 years old - 74 for men and 80 for women. Since 1950, death rates among children and young adults were cut in half, and the infant mortality rate has dropped 75 percent.

Homicide rates among young black and Hispanic males ages 15 to 24 dropped almost 50 percent in the 1990s, although homicide remains the leading cause of death among young black men and is the second leading cause of death for young Hispanic men.

Infectious disease rates have also declined, and deaths among children and young adults from unintentional injuries, cancer and heart disease are down sharply.

Hospital stays are becoming shorter in duration, with just 4.9 days on average in 2000, down from 7 days in 1980.

On the downside, the HHS reports that 3 in 5 adults are overweight, with 1 in 4 Americans considered obese. Almost 40 percent of Americans engage in no physical activity during leisure time.

Americans spent \$1.3 trillion on healthcare in 2000, 13.2 percent of the gross domestic product. The cost of prescription drugs increased 15 percent a year from 1995 to 2000 - faster than any other category of spending.

Government programs such as Medicare paid 43 percent of all medical bills in 2000, private insurance covered 35 percent, and consumers paid 17 percent out of their own pockets.

A copy of the 430-page report may be downloaded online at the National Center for Health Statistics website: www.cdc.gov/nchs.

NOTE: This report has been distilled from a HHS news release dated September 12, 2002.



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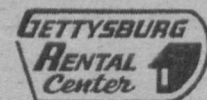


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Fitness

Make holiday meals healthy

Thanksgiving is just over. Have you thought about this year's next big family gathering? This year how about making a few changes to make the meal healthier? Turkey may be again the main attraction. Make sure it is lean and low in fat. Most of the fat in poultry is in the skin. You need the skin while roasting for a juicy bird, but before you slice it, remove the skin. Dressing, mashed potatoes, gravy, warm bread and desert are also part of the traditional meal. I'm not saying change these, just alter the way they are prepared. Use fat free milk and low fat butter in mashed potatoes. Even better, try mashed sweet potatoes. Try whole grain bread for the dressing. Whole grains are healthier than processed white bread.

Gravy is an important part of this meal. Let your broth set till it forms a solid skin on top. Remove this and you will have broth with much less fat. The gravy still tastes the same. The warm bread can be a variety of different whole grain buns. This way, everybody gets their favorite kind. Add a big salad to this year's menu. People usually think of salad as a summertime dish. One half of your plate should be filled with veggies. Raw vegetables give you the most nutritional value. Supply a variety of vegetables to pick from. Hopefully, you will have a least one kind that the kids like.

Desert! Some people live for holiday deserts. That's OK. Give yourself a treat. Just look over everything carefully, and decide what you really want. Maybe even sample a few different kinds. Try cutting the slices in half. That way you can try a bigger variety. Preparing a small plate of desert for your guests to take home is also a thoughtful way to let them sample everything and take a little piece of the holiday home to remember for the rest of the season.

Check whether some small changes in the recipe will make a big difference in the fat and sugar content of the desert. Tofu is a great way to add that creamy texture to your pies, cakes and cookies, while lowering the fat. Applesauce in place of oil is another healthy hint. Sugar is a big ingredient that packs on the pounds. Check out your grocery store for alternatives to sugar.

Finally, start a new Holiday Tradition. Take a walk after your meal. I know how everybody feels after eating a big meal. All the more reason to get moving. Take the whole family for a walk in the brisk air. See the beautiful sights of the brightly colored leaves, or the snow! Share this time and walk off some of those extra pounds you just added.

If you can't get the whole family involved, pick a friend or family mem-

ber that you would like to spend a little extra time with. Share conversation, ideas and just time. These tips are not just for upcoming religious holidays. They work well for any holiday gathering.

Think about giving the gift of health this year. And get yourself and someone you love into exercising.

—Linda Stultz

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Many of the nation's men and women in military services will be spending the holidays away from home this year. To let them know how much America supports them visit www.adoptaplatoon.org or call Lisa Deeter, 301-271-3695

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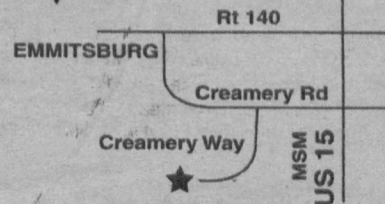
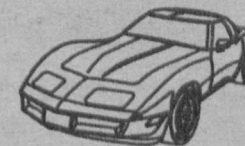


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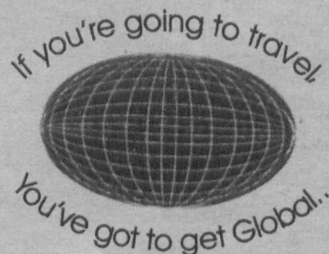
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The park is on MD Route 77, three miles west of Thurmont. The visitors' center is open daily. Information (301) 663-9388; www.nps.gov/cato.

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CROUSE FORD





Rebecca Pearl (center) greets visitors at her art gallery opening this past Saturday in Emmitsburg.

Artist opens new gallery

Artist Rebecca Pearl opened an art gallery in Emmitsburg on Dec. 8 at 306 West Main St. with a celebration from 2 to 5 p.m. The gallery bears her name and displays works by her and her family — watercolors, limited edition prints, and note cards. Pearl, who teaches a group in New Market, plans to offer art lessons here for both individuals and groups.

Pearl is a painter. Most of her commissioned works have been paintings of animals, mostly dogs, and of architectural subjects. She has also painted on buildings — a mural of New Market in the Strawberry Inn in that town, another of Myersville (but in Middletown), and a scene of an Italian garden on a 12-foot high wall. A smaller commissioned work is a 1999 Mt. St. Mary's College Christmas card that reflects a campus scene.

Pearl notes that all members of her family are artists and that she received

her first encouragement to do art, as a child from her parents. Her late father, James Pearl, was known in the Frederick area for his graphic design and local history artwork, her mother is well-known local artist and teacher Elizabeth Prongas. Her sister Deborah Souders is also an artist and teacher. And her daughter, Sarah Orner, is a junior at the MD Institute College of Art in Baltimore where Rebecca studied art.

Pearl's husband, Jay Zeigler, is helped open the gallery. "He's my partner and I couldn't do it without him." Jay will attend to custom matting and framing of pictures. In the past she opened an art gallery in Baltimore which she no longer owns. Why open a gallery in this small town? "Emmitsburg is little rosebud waiting to unfold," Rebecca said.

— Staff writer Michele Cuseo contributed to this article

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Quilters Quilting before, during WWII

By Mary Ellen Cummings
Dispatch writer

"Quilting is one of the most fascinating forms of needlecraft. It is occupying the attention of womankind everywhere. The whole country is 'quilt conscious.' The theater and booksellers have joined the throng."

Said in 2002? No! This quotation is an excerpt from *The Romance of the Patchwork Quilt* written by Carrie A. Hall and Hose G. Kretsinger and published in 1935.

They speak of the Depression and scarcities of money for household necessities. Families returned to the basics. They grew gardens and raised hogs and chickens — even those families living in the fringe areas of cities and towns. Today's health and zoning laws did not exist then.

The women and girls sewed clothing for the whole family. Fabric could be bought as cheaply as 10 cents a yard and thread was 10-15 cents a spool. Unbleached muslin was used to make sheets, pillow cases, curtains and children's underwear. Bartering was prevalent. A pound of farm-fresh butter could buy a sack of sugar; a dozen eggs for flour. Leftovers, table scraps, cull apples and old milk were fed to cats, dogs, chickens and hogs.

All fabric scraps left from sewing were recycled, too. Since blankets were expensive to buy, the women and girls sewed scraps of cloth together to make covers (quilts). Some were Crazy Patch — pieces used without cutting to change their shapes. They were usually sewed, by machine, to an old sheet, hemmed all around and used as a quilt without batting.

Some of the larger pieces were cut into geometric figures and sewed together in blocks to make a top. Batting or an old blanket or quilt was used between pieced top and lining. It

was often "tied" and then hemmed to use as a bedcover.

This Renaissance period of quilt making lasted until the 1940's when the world was embroiled in war. Plants that had made sewing fabrics were now producing for the military. Imports of fine fabrics from Europe, Africa and the Orient were almost non-existent — the war again.

The forties and fifties saw a drop in the numbers of quilters. Cotton, the preferred quilt fabric, was very scarce; and women had moved from the home to offices and factories, replacing the men in the military. After the war was officially over, women did not want to return to pre-war status, and girls were not forced to learn to sew.

There was a lull in Quilting and the needle arts. Of course, there were die-hards like yours truly who continued to be interested in quilts. I knew ladies who continued to make quilts and church groups that did custom quilting. It is from these people that we get many of our "old" quilts today. Quilts with pattern names like 9-patch,

4-Patch, Wedding Ring and Drunkards Path. Each revival of interest in making quilts saw a return of these and other familiar patterns. Sometimes they bore a new name or color combination determined by the geographic location or personal preference of the quiltmaker. Many of today's quilts will never be copied because they are works of art and mean something to the artist alone.

In January 2003, I hope to start the series on Mourning Quilts. If any of you have any knowledge of this type of quilt please call me. Your information could be regarding the making of such a quilt, the use during a period of grieving or, possibly, during the funeral period. My phone number is 301-447-6661.

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Looking Ahead

Dec. 14. Cookie/Candy Sale. St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Sabillasville, is holding its annual sale. Orders placed by Dec. 8 can be picked up today. Information: 301-241-3287 or www.StMarksSabillasville.org.

Dec. 14. Live Nativity performance, presented along route 140 between Taneytown and Emmitsburg by Tom's Creek United Methodist Church 5:30 - 8 p.m. With Mary, Joseph, Jesus, angels, shepherd and live animals, plus free hot chocolate and cookies

Dec. 14. Madrigal Feaste. The Fairfield Singers will present the 5th annual holiday celebration with a multi-course and Renaissance performers. At St. Joseph's Parish Hall. All proceeds will benefit the non-profit Osteopathic Health Center. The Center will provide primary medical care for everyone, regardless of

income or insurance status. Tickets: \$40, part tax-deductible. Information: Roger Keith. (310) 271-0171, Ann Ruppert, (717) 642-5436.

Dec. 14. Santa will be at the Seton Center Thrift Shop 10 a.m. till 12 noon. Pictures with Santa, \$5 each. Information: 301-447-6102

Dec. 21. Children's Christmas Party. The Lion's Club is holding its annual Christmas party at the Emmitsburg Fire Hall. Christmas Crafts by the Girl Scouts 10:00 - 11:00 a.m., Entertainment by "Maggie the Clown" 11:00 - 12:00 p.m., Have your photo taken with Santa and receive candy 12:30 - 2:00 p.m.

Dec. 24. Candlelight Service will be held at Trinity United Methodist Church on Main St. beginning at 9. All are welcome. Wade Martin. Pastor.

Jan. ? Weight Watchers. New Monday-noon group forms this month at St. Catherine's Nursing Center. 331 S. Seton Ave. Information: Debbie Eyer, 301-447-7009



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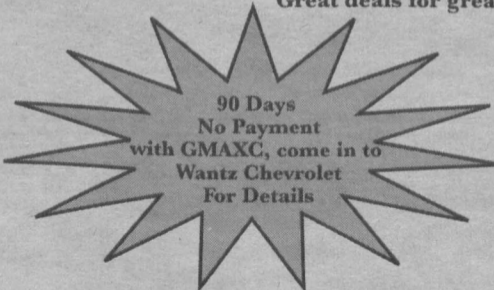
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