

The Emmitsburg Dispatch

Vol II, No.2

news and opinion in the service of truth

February 2003

Emmitsburg argues about its founding date

Editor's note: A question about the year in which Emmitsburg was founded was raised at the Feb. 3 town meeting. Two who spoke about it were on the meeting agenda. They submitted summarized versions of what they planned to say for the readers of this newspaper. Their prepared comments can be found on p 10.

By Raymond Buchheister
Publisher

The Town meeting, regularly scheduled at the Town office, was held at the Sleep Inn on Feb. 3 in anticipation of a crowd. In fact more than 40 people came to exchange ideas about whether or not Emmitsburg should recognize a different founding date than 1757, which appears on the Town's seal, welcome signs, and elsewhere.

Michael Hillman made a presentation to Town officials to convince them that the founding date is not 1757. Hillman who resides in the Emmitsburg 21727 area, is deeply involved in the Emmitsburg Historical Society, and is the creator of the website www.emmitsburg.net. In an interview he said, "I stumbled across the error while doing deed research for a tract of land called Fort Henry."

Land records. His argument rests primarily on his 6-year-long research into land records back to original land grants. He studied deeds which he overlaid on present tax maps to deter-

mine the location of original boundaries. He maintains that the first written mention of a town, or the name, "Emmitsburg," is in a deed dated Aug. 12, 1785, conveying 35 acres from Samuel Emmit to his son William, "...wherein the lots of a new town of Emmitsburg are laid out."

The Town's history published in the 1957 bi-centennial issue of The Emmitsburg Chronicle has also come under the scrutiny of Hillman. He accuses the authors of deliberately fabricating material to create the illusion that a town existed in 1757, even going so far as to change wording in an earlier text. "The simple fact is, a fraud was perpetrated on the residents in 1957," he said.

According to Mike Hillman, "This is black and white, 1785 is right and 1757 is wrong." He has posted his findings in an article, "Setting the Record Straight, The Real History of Emmitsburg's Founding," on his website.

Introduced at meeting. Hillman introduced the founding year question at a meeting of the Emmitsburg Historical Society on Jan. 20. He presented his view that the choice of 1757 is "erroneous" and had folders available with copies of supporting documents and maps, which he had prepared for Emmitsburg Town commissioners. Hillman proposed to present his opinion to the Town as the representative of the Emmitsburg Historical



This sign, located on S. Seton Ave., is one of four that welcome motorists entering Emmitsburg via a main route to the Town. The signs display a 1757 Founding Date, which is being questioned by at least one resident.

Society.

One participant commended him for his research and for his effort to post it on his website. Another, Sr. Betty Ann McNeal, DM, said his presentation was "very extensive and thorough." If there had been a debate, sister said, "rather than a one-sided presentation with questions handled only at the end," there might have been a resolution. And, "visuals might have helped." But she, too, commended Hillman's striving for accuracy and repeated the

maxim, "Accuracy is the badge of a scholar." Sister is herself a scholar currently compiling the third volume of the letters of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton.

After a lively discussion the Historical Society regulars asked him not to present his ideas to the Town, or anywhere else, in their name, but only in his own.

But Linda Junker, who was present and was the other scheduled speaker at

—Continued on page 3

Inside

Letters to the editor	-----2
Editorial	-----4
Town News	-----5
Religion	-----8
Obituaries	-----9
Education	-----12
The Retired Ecologist	---14
Health	-----16
Art & Leisure	-----17
Quilters	-----17
People to People	-----18
Looking Ahead	-----19
Classified Ads	-----20

Town expects less State funds for streets, parks, in fiscal 2003

Staff report

Emmitsburg expects cuts in its State funding in the coming fiscal year (July '03-June '04). Mayor Jim Hoover told those present at the Feb. 3 Town meeting that Emmitsburg will receive less money for streets and less for parks.

The State Highway Administration collects revenue, such as a gasoline tax. This is distributed, according to a State formula, in different amounts to Maryland municipalities to help

pay for repaving roads. Emmitsburg uses the money for road maintenance, snowplowing, and salt.

The Town expects to receive \$32,000 less this year. Mayor Hoover said. The diminished funding would be equivalent to raising property taxes 4 or 5 cents.

Each year, also, the Town applies for grant money from Project Open Space and normally gets between \$30,000 and \$60,000. It uses the money for new parks and recreation equipment such as ball fields, tot lots,

bathrooms, and the purchase of land.

The grant requires a 25 percent matching amount from the Town's coffers and it can be spent only on new equipment or land purchase. Hoover said this funding isn't used for park maintenance, and lack of the money requested may result in some projects being put off for a year or two. He said the Town should expect to see both these funds cut for at least 2 years.

Mayor Hoover attended the annual Mayors' conference in Annapolis on Jan. 30-Feb. 3. The Maryland Municipal League held roundtable discussions to inform, educate, and build working relationships between the State municipalities.

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.

Policy on letters

In this issue there is a letter to the editor from New Hampshire. It was submitted in typewritten form and signed. It was not junk mail.

The Emmitsburg Dispatch reads every email, letter, and article submitted for publication. If letters run 300 words or fewer, they may be published as is, with only errors in spelling and punctuation corrected. We consider emailed letters only from subscribers and persons living in this area. One reason this newspaper exists is to serve as an outlet for your opinions.

We invite you to submit letters. We need them, not to fill space — we have more than enough copy — but because our readers need them. Our communi-

ty needs them as a means of dialogue. Half of human problems occur because of failures to communicate well, or at all.

In a letter you can speak to Town officials, fellow citizens, and many people in other areas who subscribe or read *The Emmitsburg Dispatch* online. With a letter to this newspaper, you can speak out loud, silently, to everyone, about any subject you choose. You have a right to express your opinions, and some of your ideas may benefit us all.

Democracy thrives by the free expression of the people and dies without it.

Traffic patterns need to change

This letter is in regard to the amount of traffic that is in our "small town." Is the town looking into the amount of vehicles that are going through here? All these new homes are being built — taking away from the small town we were. Our little town is growing and we need changes to our traffic patterns.

I think a potential location for a bypass would be at Mount St. Mary's College where the Pennsylvania residents could exit the highway and avoid

Emmitsburg totally.

Traffic coming from Jubilee is a large amount — most vehicles are waiting to make a left turn — that can take an entire light for one vehicle to turn left. If a bypass is not possible, how about eliminating the parking spaces on the "square" and putting in an extra lane for left turning?

—Cathy Reaver
Emmitsburg

Developments benefit developers

As a 36-year resident of Emmitsburg, I have seen a new public school built; the parochial school expanded; new wells drilled; new water and sewage treatment plants installed; Main Street reconstructed; the Vigilant Hose Company expanded and re-equipped; the ambulance company established; St. Catherine's Nursing Home opened, and the former campus of St. Joseph's College sold to the federal government for FEMA's use. These are all changes that benefit the general public.

I have also seen changes that do not benefit the general public, including more traffic, more air pollution, more sewer and water problems, school overcrowding, and higher taxes to correct all of the above. Higher taxes, of course, lower the value of the current residents' real estate. These negative changes are brought on by large-scale developments in the area that benefit primarily the

developers, who plan to get richer quicker than the rest of us and leave.

Perhaps those favoring development can explain why the many residents should suffer to benefit the few developers. I refer specifically to the fact that every \$1 brought in by development tends to bring with it \$1.50, plus, of expenses. The residents of Woodsboro understand this; they voted to reject annexation. Common sense tells us in Emmitsburg to shut the door on large developments.

If you want Emmitsburg to stay as it is, vote down annexation of the Boyle farm, with its proposed 130 houses. Demand realistic impact fees large enough to cover all the costs caused by any large development within the Town limits. And remember, eternal vigilance is the price of quality of life, as well as of liberty.

—Harold C. Craig, Jr.
Emmitsburg

Reader shocked by editor's intolerance

I am deeply shocked at the religious intolerance displayed by Bill Steo in his December editorial. Mr. Steo writes, "It is merely natural to know there is some one ultimate reason why the universe continues to exist and to call it 'God'." Amazingly, Mr. Steo goes on to dictate that all levels of government should then display a list of Commandments which begins with "Worship the one God at least once a week." It is clearly not a proven fact that there is "one ultimate reason why the universe continues." That quote is merely the opinion of Mr. Steo and his

particular religion. Why, then, does he wish to impose on everybody his own (and in my opinion, simplistic) viewpoint on the mysteries of the universe?

Public institutions and all levels of government in these United States exist to serve and protect all of the people, and all of their vastly different spiritual paths. Perhaps in the dangerous kingdom of Steo you can be told to "Worship the one God at least once a week," but most certainly not in America.

—Robert Streeter
Tamworth, NH

Commandments for practicing MD law

Your Editorial in the Emmitsburg Dispatch, December 2002, in which you voiced your support for the display of God's Ten Commandments on public property in Frederick and concluded the article with your personal shortened version of those commandments was most interesting. I am in full support of the original Ten Commandments wherever as well as your thoughtful shortened ones. As you stated, who could complain?

Having studied not only God's laws (at 3 Catholic schools in Emmitsburg) but also man's laws (graduate of the University of Baltimore, Juris Doctor) I am aware of a somewhat similar correlation of the Ten Commandments by a noted judge which are suggested to be used as guidance in the professional practice of man's laws. Perhaps they will be of interest to you and the general public, too. They are:

I Thou shalt know the Maryland rules of procedure.

II Thou shalt not procrastinate.

III Thou shalt communicate with thy client.

IV Thou shalt be honest with thyself and in thy dealings with others.

V Thou shalt never lie to a Court.

VI Thou shalt develop a bathtub mind (when the case is concluded, pull the plug and prepare for the next.)

VII Thou shalt be prepared for thy case.

VIII Thou shalt never accept a case that you know you are not qualified to handle.

IX Thou shalt be courteous.

X Thou shalt not be intimidated by the judge.

—Ronald V. Joy
Westminster, MD

Publication was postponed

The publication of this issue was postponed so that The Emmitsburg Dispatch could report on the Town meeting. It may postpone future issues for the same purpose. The publication date is the 7th of the month or shortly after.

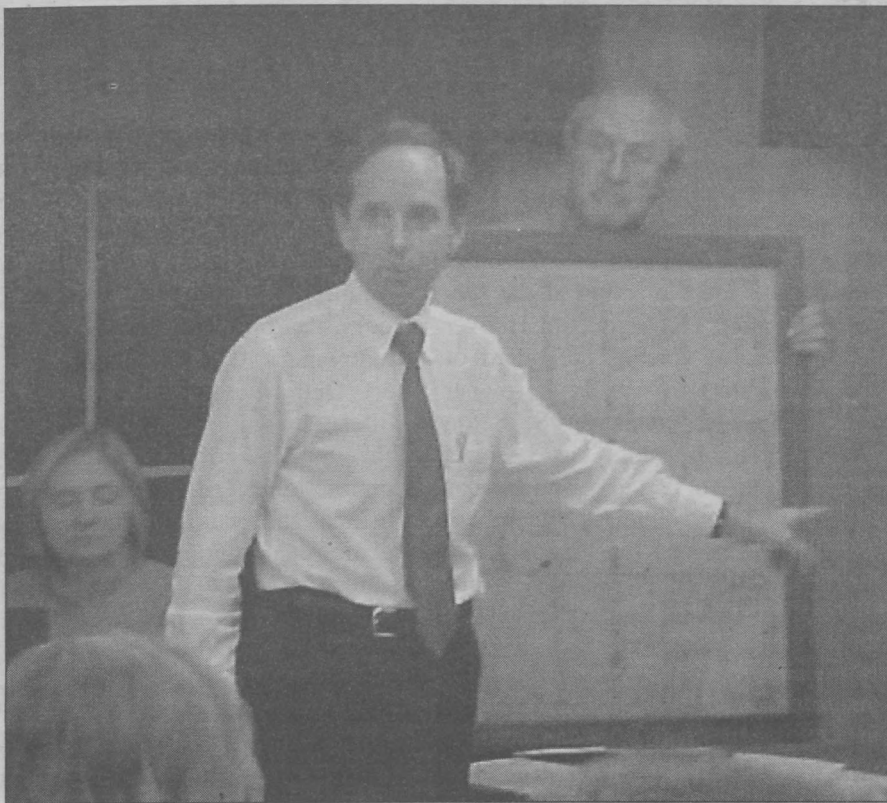
NOTICE

**COULD YOUR ALLEYWAYS BE AFFECTED
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February 19th at 7:30 P.M.

**Emmitsburg Streets & Transportation Committee
invite town residents to an important meeting to discuss
a recommendation that could affect your alley.**

Don't miss out!



Michael Hillman refers to an old map during a presentation he gave at a Town meeting on Feb 3. Town manager, Dave Haller (right) holds the map and Donna Thompson, Town Clerk, (left) records the official meeting minutes. Hillman believes the true founding date of Emmitsburg is 1785, not 1757.

Founding Date

—Continued from page 1

the Town meeting, says no one protested their request. "And I wouldn't say the feeling was unanimous." No formal vote was taken. On his website, however, Hillman quickly replaced the Greater Emmitsburg Historical Society with his own name in reference to this issue.

One week after the Jan. 20 meeting, Hillman held another at his house. It was not advertised on his website. He sent an invitation, via email, to a select group of those who had not opposed his representing the Historical Society. They attended this special meeting and agreed to allow him to present his views on the founding date in the name of the Society.

Again, he changed the website reference, removing his name from the article and replacing it with "Greater Emmitsburg Historical Society."

Another claim. In an email to the Emmitsburg Business and Professional Association (EBPA), Hillman claimed that Mount St. Mary's historian, Rev. Daniel Nusbaum, is "in complete agreement" with him about the founding date. This has been denied.

Fr. Nusbaum told The Emmitsburg Dispatch that he hasn't seen Hillman's research. "I haven't researched the history of Emmitsburg and refuse to do so at this time. I don't want to be part of the argument." Nusbaum, who didn't criticize Hillman or Junker, is scheduled to speak on the early history of this area, prior to 1730, at a meeting of the EBPA on Feb. 19.

Mark Hudson, executive director of the Historical Society of Frederick

County, Inc., has invited Hillman, "to make his case to our membership as part of our Lecture Series this year. He will be speaking at 7:30 p.m. on March 11 in the Community Room of the C. Burr arts Central Library."

Other newspapers. The Walkersville/Thurmont Gazette published an article about Hillman's proposal ("Resident questions Town of Emmitsburg's actual founding date," Jan. 9, 2003, p. A-5). The Washington Post (the Post company owns the Gazette) then sent a reporter, David Snyder, who circulated around town, asked his own questions, and wrote an article that appeared in the Jan. 26 issue (p. C 1). Snyder quoted a few area residents, including Town Council President Pat Boyle and former mayor, William Carr.

Mark Hudson told him, "There is no objective appropriate means for determining a town's founding date." In an email obtained by The Emmitsburg Dispatch, Hudson said, also, "I am not aware of a specific protocol for determining the date of founding for a town. Most often that is left to the citizens of the community to determine."

Pangs of urbanization. Hillman and others think the Post became interested in the subject because it illustrates the pangs of growing urbanization. Recently the Post published articles about the painful decline of small towns because of development. (See "The Bulldozers Come For Another Pretty Place," by Mary Katherine Ishee, Jan. 12, 2003, p. B 8, and "Plenty of Charm. No Aspirin. I'm Outta There," by Peter Heyrman, Jan. 5, 2003, p. B 5.)

Hillman, who is the source and focus for the Post article, did not like it. He did not set a link to it on his website, although he links to almost everything relating to Emmitsburg, except The Emmitsburg Dispatch.

Accusation. During the town meeting an unexpected accusation against Hillman came from Linda Junker. While doing her research, she found significant differences between the essay, "Emmitsburg: The Municipal Corporation" by Joseph S. Welty that appears in the book *Emmitsburg History & Society*, and the reprint that was posted by Hillman on Emmitsburg.net. She noted that Hillman's revision lent support to his arguments for changing the founding date, while the original did not.

Mr. Welty said, "No one has asked to publish anything, and no one sought permission to change anything," Junker noted for the Town officials that, "Altering the intellectual property of another person is a serious violation of professional integrity and raises questions about the ethical management of the website and the reliability of Mr. Hillman's research."

Hillman did admit to making changes to the essay. He told The Emmitsburg Dispatch that the copyright to the article is owned by Eric Glass, the former owner of The Emmitsburg Chronicle, who, he says, gave him verbal permission to use its contents. "While my intentions were simply to correct an error in fact, nothing more, in hindsight, I should have left it alone."

The essay on Emmitsburg.net now appears with an editor's note letting the reader know the paragraph has been revised. A link provides Welty's original paragraph with his recent consent to the revision.

"Teachable moment." Junker identified an important point connected to recognition of the Town's founding date. She says citizens have a right to feel a sense of ownership of their town, and to foster and celebrate it. "They should be open to other views and look on all this as a teachable moment about the history of Emmitsburg."

Those opposing Hillman's argument, which focuses narrowly on certain data and calls other views erroneous, say that he has ignored the broader question of how a town determines the date of its founding.

Sister Betty Ann McNeil remarked, "This is not about writing a new historical record but reading history anew—in a new way." There is no standard definition of "foundation" of a town. So when was Emmitsburg founded? It depends on what townspeople think a town is, and what are the actions that establish a town.

Community effort. The proposal to celebrate a different founding date for Emmitsburg raises several ques-

tions. The answers would derive from multiple perspectives and social values, Sister Betty Ann says. She thinks a long-term solution would require the participation of citizens with a sense of community identity and of responsible stewardship of the Town's cultural legacy.

Sister thinks that the heritage of Emmitsburg should be preserved by continuing to use the traditional founding date, 1757. Her conclusion, however, is that one of several dates can accurately be considered the founding date of Emmitsburg, and recommends consultation with professional historians from outside the area to suggest the best one.

On Feb 5, in an email to Dr. Hoda Zaki, Chairman of the Department of History and Political Science at Hood College, Hillman claimed his "information and conclusions have been peer reviewed and concurred with by a local degreed historian, 2 lawyers, and numerous professionals," but did not name them. Seeking his consultation he said, "our research and conclusions will benefit from a review by a body of expert historians, such as faculty [faculty] of the Hood History Department."

Date affects other things. For some this issue is an emotional one, particularly those looking forward to the celebration of 250th anniversary of Emmitsburg's Founding in 2007. If the founding date were changed, the anniversary wouldn't be celebrated until 2035 when many of the Town's older citizens may not be alive.

If the town commissioners attempt to change the date recognized as the founding date of Emmitsburg (if they alone can legally change it), they will have many other things to consider — the official Town seal and flag, Emmitsburg's placement on the National Register of Historic Places, and who is the Town's founding father, traditionally said to be Samuel Emmit, by his purchase in 1757 of 2,250 acres that included land where Emmitsburg is now located.

Decision postponed. The board of commissioners heard 20-minute presentations from both Hillman and Junker, and public comments from 12 others who signed up. A folder was filled to more than 2 inches thick with material submitted by those present and some who were not.

Seeming overwhelmed with all they had heard and received, President Pat Boyle and the other commissioners tabled the issue, agreeing that the proposal requires long and careful deliberation. Mayor Jim Hoover made a recommendation that a time be set for a decision, but it was not given much consideration.

At the end of the Town meeting, the proposal to declare a different founding date for Emmitsburg remained unanswered.

EDITORIAL

The death of Emmitsburg can happen bit by bit

There isn't any large city on planet earth, from Jericho, the oldest, to any city incorporated yesterday, that did not begin small. Which ones escalated from village to city in one move? Not one. Every city smothered by suburbs was once a small town that changed one annexation at a time. Previous Emmitsburg officials kept making those additions without helping us really understand the outcome. It's as if we could see the housing developments rising only out the corners of our eyes.

It's winter now and our eyes may be half closed. But the annexers are not sleeping. Buckeye Development and its hit men are at work. All of us may not learn how unless our beloved Emmitsburg begins to deteriorate into another urban wasteland. It will do just that if we fail to vote against the annexation of the Silver Fancy property.

Emmitsburg Town officials all know that growth in population — unlike growth in business and industry — is a step away from smallness and towards bigness. Yet they spent your

tax money to have staffers estimate, for the developer, some alleged benefits of annexation — and failed to make a similar calculation of all the real costs. Those costs include the degradation of those qualities that make Emmitsburg a delight.

Other housing developments encroached on our town after town officials posted all the legal notices, but provided inadequate information to the public. Otherwise, it is unlikely they would have approved all annexations. Citizens have not been lazy or unconcerned, but deprived of information.

Citizens now are getting to know about traffic problems, and overloaded sewers and rusted water lines. They read the Town documents, and these pages, and they know the Silver Fancy annexation would do next to nothing to remedy those problems, that it would add others, and that it would finally imprison downtown Emmitsburg in housing developments.

Annexation, everyone should know, would be a historic disaster.

Real estate broker appointed to Planning & Zoning Commission

By Raymond Buchheister
Publisher

Don Briggs was appointed to the Planning and Zoning Commission at the Feb. 3 town meeting at the recommendation of Mayor Jim Hoover and by a 4-0 vote of the board of commissioners. Briggs is the owner of Briggs Associates on S. Seton Avenue. His business has been in Emmitsburg for 7 years and he has been a resident since last November.

An opening on the Planning and Zoning Commission became available when Dianne Walbrecker's term ended in January. The Commission consists of 5 positions, one of which is a voting position and held by Emmitsburg Commissioner Ted Brennan. Walbrecker was the chairperson of the Commission.

Briggs recently approached the town about becoming a member of the water committee, when Mayor Jim Hoover recommended he consider Planning and Zoning. The Planning and Zoning Commission makes final decisions on small matters like signs, house numbers, and larger ones like site plans which it can approve or not. It can only make recommendations to the Commissioners concerning fundamental changes in the town, like a new ordinance or an annexation. Last year it offered recommendation to the town council concerning the Silver Fancy annexation petition.

In an interview with The Emmitsburg Dispatch the mayor was asked why he recommended Briggs for this position. "Isn't there a potential for a conflict of interest?" Briggs is a professional involved in land development; his company does real estate sales and appraisals. Hoover said, "The potential is there, but I trust him. I think my recommendation of him for the Commission is a good one." Hoover said he recom-

mended Briggs because none of the current Planning and Zoning members has land development experience, which could benefit the town.

Other Planning and Zoning Commission members are Frank Henry, a building inspector for Montgomery County, Ron Lind, a Fort Detrick employee, and Sara Miller, who works in accounts receivable at Fitzgerald Auto Mall. Commissioner Ted Brennan is a professional staffer on the International Relations Committee of the House of Representatives.

Briggs brings experience not only in real estate but also in planning and zoning. He served a 5-year term on the Frederick City Planning Commission in the mid-1980's. Brennan said, "The mayor felt we needed the expertise, and knowledge of how land developers operate in order to deal with some of the things we're confronted with, and Don can give us that."

Brennan, who knows Briggs through the Emmitsburg Business and Professional Association and his attendance at town meetings said, "He's a citizen of Emmitsburg who has donated his time in the past to make Emmitsburg a better place to live." In 1998 Briggs provided a lot of input for the town's Comprehensive Plan. Most recently he was the primary negotiator between a seller, The Conservation Fund, a group that works through partnerships to preserve land around the country, and the State of Maryland to help preserve some of the scenic backdrop of our town.

In 2002 the town of Emmitsburg received 550 acres on what is referred to as Ski Mountain, a project Briggs worked on for 4 years. Briggs talked the State into giving the land to the town of Emmitsburg. Commissioner Brennan said that if there is an issue

—Continued on page 6

The Emmitsburg Dispatch

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TOWN NEWS

Federal funds, maybe, to repair sewer system

By Bill Steo
Editor

Mayor Jim Hoover and the Emmitsburg's commissioners took the Town's tin cup to Congressman Roscoe Bartlett's office on Jan. 9. What can the government give Emmitsburg to help heal its damaged sewer system?

Wild water — rain and snow melt — has been flushing through breaks in the Town's sewers and overwhelming its treatment plant. Recently 70 percent of the water treated by the plant was wild water, not sewage from homes or businesses. On each of 6 days in a recent month, the water treated (1,000,000 gallons) exceeded the daily capacity of the plant (800,000 gallons). Some sewers run under stream beds and are common places where wild water infiltrates.

Last Dec. 11 the overtaxed sewer system spilled approximately 1,000,000 gallons of raw sewage on the east side of Rte. 15. Because of the enormous amount of wild water in the sewage delivery system, pumps switched to a high speed, pumped more than the system could handle, and forced the raw sewage out through a manhole. From there it found its way to Tom's Creek.

A few months ago the Town Manager and staff warned the town commissioners, more than once, about just this kind of insult to the environment, and the subject was brought up at

the town meetings.

The Town is trying to obtain an emergency permit to begin a repair/replacement project on the sanitary sewer line which runs from N. Seton Ave. west to behind the old Rutter's store. The Town staff and consultants think this sewer is the primary culprit in the wild water problem at the wastewater plant.

As for government help, Congressman Bartlett's office thinks Emmitsburg might be able to tap into some funding program of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Maybe the U.S. Corps of Engineers can do some dredging. At last check Bartlett staffer Phil Straw was working up meetings for the Town with both agencies.

New water plant works well

Staff report

Emmitsburg's new water treatment facility has been operating successfully, according to Town Manager Dave Haller. It was started up in December to supply the Town approved drinking water. Town staffers with their consultants will continue to adjust the treatment process during the next few months to get maximum run times out of the filtering system.

A word from the Mayor

Residents asked to submit questions for mayor's Word

As promised I have been writing articles in The Emmitsburg Dispatch each month to inform residents of town matters. Each month I take it upon myself to place an article in the paper on subjects that I think residents would like to know more about. This month I am offering a way for the residents to be involved in deciding what town matter may appear in my article. I want to change how I decide what information to write an article about, starting next month (March 2003). What I need from the residents is for you to provide me with a specific question to answer each month. Your question will appear as part of the article; your name does not have to be included if

you prefer the question be placed anonymously.

I have only a few specific guidelines for you to follow if you wish to have your question considered as part of an article.

Your question is to be submitted in writing.

Your question must be a question.

This is not an opportunity to write a letter/statement to the Mayor that can not be answered properly.

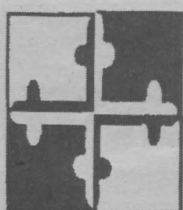
Include your name and address with each question submitted, even if you want to remain anonymous to the public.

The question can not be offensive to anyone.

Questions can be emailed to me at mayor@emmitsburg.net or they may be hand delivered, or mailed, to the Town Office located at 22 East Main Street, P. O. Box 990.

If you submit a question and it does not appear in The Emmitsburg Dispatch, don't assume your question was rejected. Due to the need to limit the amount of space I take up in The Emmitsburg Dispatch, I may need to save your question for a future article.

— Jim Hoover
Mayor of Emmitsburg



130 S. Seton
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Maryland
21727

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Zoning

—Continued from page 4

that arises with the potential for a conflict of interest for Briggs, he will be asked to recuse himself.

Frank Henry, who purchased his Main Street residence from Briggs, knows him from church and said, "If there is a potential conflict of interest regarding property involved with the Planning and Zoning Commission, I think Don is smart enough to recuse himself from the situation." He went further to say he isn't worried about Don holding the position. Sara Miller doesn't really know Mr. Briggs and Don Lind wasn't available for comment.

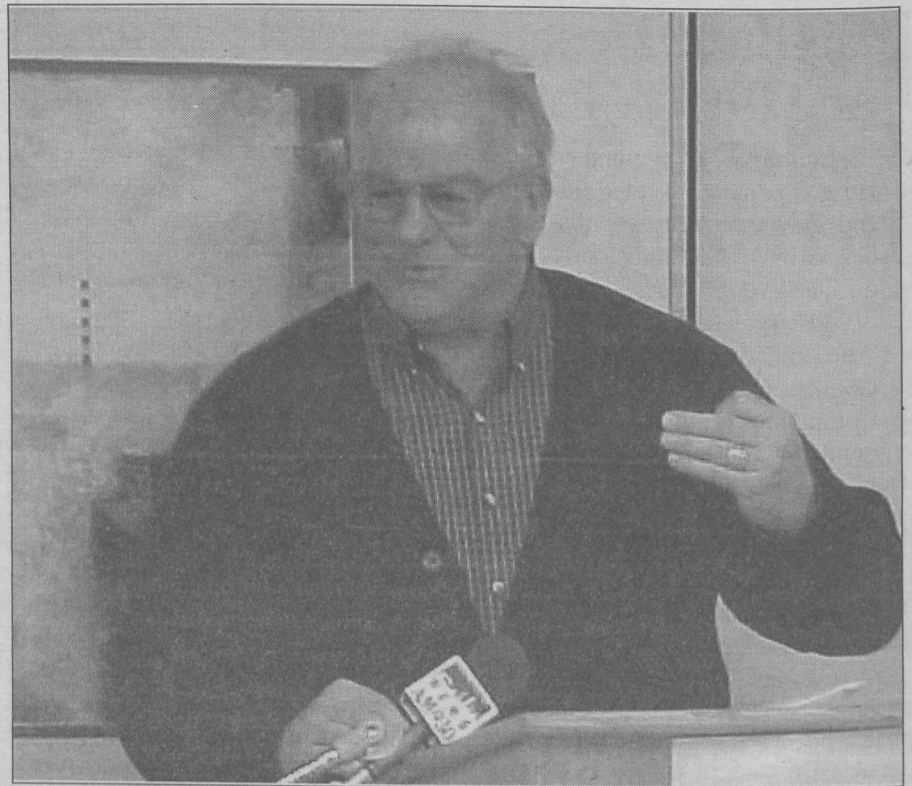
Hoover did say that Briggs was hesitant about accepting his recommendation to the Commission due to his profession. As a new resident Briggs said he went to the Mayor because he really wanted to contribute. "This is where they need me and I'm doing it reluctantly," he said. According to Briggs he was only supposed to be an alternate, but he acknowledged that the vacancy caused by the expiration of term of Dianne Walbrecker has left an opening that needs to be filled. The vacant seat was advertised on the Emmitsburg Cable Channel.

Before accepting the position Briggs consulted Dot Davis, a long time resident of Emmitsburg and member of Citizens Organization to Preserve Emmitsburg (COPE). The organization played a major role in bringing the recent annexation petition to a referendum. Since the

annexation was a hot topic and Davis, a citizen he respected, was on the front line, her thoughts helped him make his decision.

Davis said, "Don is well educated and knows enough about the laws to know what can be done and what can't be, because he's in real estate." When she was asked if his sitting on the Commission had the potential to be a conflict of interest she said, "There probably will be, but knowing him, I think he would be fair." Davis said she's known Briggs for a number of years since he moved his business to Emmitsburg.

Briggs sees the town's reasoning for appointing him to the position and commented, "If you had a brain surgery commission, wouldn't you want a brain surgeon on the committee." The Planning and Zoning Commission is preparing to begin the 5-year update of the town's comprehensive plan. Briggs didn't deny that there is a potential for a conflict but said, "I wouldn't vote or comment if I or one of my clients were involved in an issue."



Don Briggs, pictured here at a recent town meeting, was appointed to the Planning and Zoning Commission at the recommendation of Mayor Jim Hoover and a 4-0 vote of the board of commissioners. Briggs, a resident since November, is the owner of Briggs Associates on South Seton Avenue, a company that does real estate sales and appraisals.

New ambulance paid for by bingo players, Eyler says

By Raymond Buchheister
Publisher

The residents of Emmitsburg and in the first due area of Emmitsburg Ambulance Company received a brand new ambulance in January. The new 2003 P.L. Customs Ford E-450, which replaced a 1992 Ford E-350, is marked with the same #268. Frequent break-

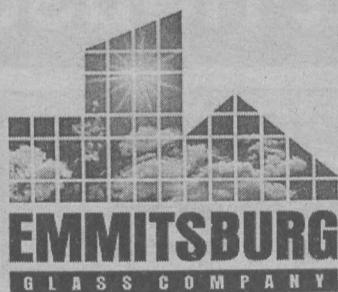
down of the old vehicle was the reason for the company's decision to purchase the new ambulance, said Chief Brian Koenig.

The new ambulance, which is partially financed by Farmer's and Mechanics National Bank, cost \$133,000. Vice President of the company, James Eyler, said, "We attribute this new ambulance to our bingo play-

ers; the income from the weekly fundraisers are paying for the unit."

The vehicle has to have radios installed and be stocked with medical equipment before it can be put into service. The ambulance will then be certified by the Voluntary Certification Program which is regulated by the Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems. Koenig, eager to get the ambulance in service, said it would be nice if it were ready for their company's banquet on February 8th.

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Vigilant Hose Co. installs officers at 119th Anniversary banquet

Emmitsburg's volunteer Vigilant Hose Company installed new officers and gave out many awards to members at its 119th Anniversary Banquet on Jan. 4.

VHC gave a special award Randy Waesche, Director of Frederick County Department of Emergency Communications, for improving the county-wide radio system and for bringing the project on line in 2002.

Another special award went to Robert A. Rosensteel, Sr. for his photographs of VHC's new Rescue Unit. They appeared on the cover of Fire Chief Magazine in October 2002 and will be the October 2003 calendar photo of Pierce Manufacturing. Mr. Rosensteel also compiled the video, "A Year in Review," which was shown at the end of the evening.

Awards for 2002 activities were:

In-Station Training Award to Jim Click; Formal Training Award to Chris Ryder; Chief's Award to Robert A. Rosensteel, Jr.;

President's Award Randy Myers.

Chad M. Umbel was awarded as Member of the Year.

The highest award presented by the Vigilant Hose Company is induction into its Hall of Fame. This award is presented to one living member and one deceased.

This year's living inductee to the Hall of Fame is Chief Frank Davis. Joining VHC before his 18th birthday, he has served on various committees and in numerous offices. In 1981 he was elected President of VHC and a voting Delegate to the Maryland State Fireman's Associations conventions.

In 1982 Chief Davis became a Lieutenant for 2 years and then served as 2nd Asst. Chief in 1984 & 1985. In these earlier years he was also an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT). In 1987 he became 1st Asst.

Chief until elected Chief in 1990, a position he still holds. Currently Chief Davis also serves as the Frederick County Operations Chairman.

Installed posthumously into the Hall of Fame was David L. Copenhaver. Mr. Copenhaver joined VHC in 1969 and was a life member at the time of his death in 1997. He served on numerous fund-raising and social committees, and as Vice President, Member of the Board, Delegate to Frederick County and Maryland State Conventions. He was a member of Frederick County Fire and Rescue Association for 26 years.

At the banquet numerous members of the Vigilant Hose Company were acknowledged for: years of Service, the top 10 Length of Service Award Programs (LOSAP), the top 10 Responders for 2002, and the top Fire Police Responders

The VHC Auxiliary gave the Company 2 gifts this year: squeegees to clean the firehouse floor and \$40,000.

The Chief's Report noted that in 2002 there were 385 fire calls and 5,449 personnel hours. Average personnel per fire call were 16, and 9 per EMS call.

The banquet, held at Mother Seton School, was catered by One More Tavern. The evening concluded with dancing to music by Denny & Elaine's Classic Entertainment & DJ Service.



A check for \$40,000 is what Vigilant Hose Co. President Timothy Clarke is starting at. VHC Auxiliary President Dorothy Davis, seated, presented it to him on behalf of Auxiliary members at the VHC 119th anniversary banquet Jan. 4, 2003.

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RELIGION

Lutheran Pastor Dave Knodel to leave Emmitsburg in February

By Frank Schmersal
Special to
The Emmitsburg Dispatch

The interim pastor of Elias Evangelical Lutheran Church, Rev. David Knodel, has announced that he is leaving his position sometime in February. A replacement has not been identified yet.

Pastor Knodel, who is known to his congregation as Pastor Dave, came to Elias in November, 2000, following the departure of Rev. Susan Yatta. As a professional interim pastor, Pastor Dave's task was to fill the pulpit at Elias until a permanent pastor could be found. However, recent events in his family have made it necessary for him to leave before that could be accomplished.

Pastor Dave's wife, Rev. Katherine Knodel, was until this month the assistant pastor at St. Stephen's Lutheran Church in Newark, Delaware. The family maintained its home in Newark, and Pastor Dave stayed in Emmitsburg four or five nights a week and in Newark the rest of the time. Now his wife has accepted a call to a Lutheran church in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, and the distance will be too great for Pastor Dave to continue at Elias. Instead, he is

seeking an interim assignment in the Southeast Pennsylvania Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America (ELCA) that will be closer to home for him.

While at Elias, Pastor Dave has taken an active role in all aspects of congregation life. In addition to the usual preaching and counseling duties, he has helped reorganize the various committees of the church to make them more effective. He has helped with the youth group, and has participated in the voice and hand bell choirs. He also has helped with the church suppers, making use of earlier experience in the restaurant trade.

Until recently, Pastor Dave was also a chaplain in the Delaware Air National Guard, holding the rank of captain. Following the events of September 11, 2001, he spent several weeks on active duty at and near the Pentagon, providing counseling to those affected by the tragedy there.

Pastor Dave and Pastor Katherine are both graduates of the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Gettysburg. They have two children, a daughter Alison, age 14, and a son Charles, age 9. The family is presently searching for a new home in Bucks County and preparing to sell its home in Delaware.

Freedom, is not a lack of limits, not a lack of anything. If it is anything at all, freedom is a power, not a weakness -- the power to do good. But we have different ideas about what is good. This is ultimately why we engage in endless debates..

A word from the pulpit

An Inspiring Evening

By Rev. Ted Haas
Pastor, Incarnation
United Church of Christ

Editor Bill Steo phoned to ask me to write an inspirational message for The Emmitsburg Dispatch. That evening I sat in my study waiting to be inspired, looking around the room thoughtfully. Suddenly, I focused on the beautiful cut glass communion chalice that has been on my desk for 27 years. I remembered the parishioners who gave it to me when I moved from Pennsylvania to Frederick. It once belonged to a Lutheran Church that disbanded; George and Grace took it and entrusted it to me. I imagined all of the Christians over the years who communed with Jesus out of this wine goblet and I was touched anew by the love of God it mediated!

Raising my eyes to scan the bookshelf across from my desk, I was drawn to the large wooden carving of St. Peter brought back from Spain for me by another dear friend. His upraised hand blesses everyone. Jesus built his church on persons like this man, sometimes weak and scared, but strong and faithful in the end. I can be this way, too! So can you!

The more I surveyed my study the more I was inspired—by the large portrait of Christ looking right at me to assure me of his presence, by the sculpted silver Snoopy, the Christ-like character in Charles Schulz's *Peanuts* comic strip, always dancing and loving in the face of adversity, just as Jesus did and wants us to do! On the wall nearby is a plaque of Albrecht Durer's "Praying Hands," pointing people to one of the surest ways of coping in

times of trouble. Yes, I will pray, Lord! On another shelf is a Celtic prayer book, which includes St. Columba's 6th century prayer:

"Alone with none but you, my God, I journey on my way.
What need I fear when you are near,
O King of night and day?"

Ours is a world faith and a faith for the world. I look at a precious Christian bowl from Jerusalem, at the oil painting of the Cathedral of Chartres, at the candy box picturing an old church in Germany, at the Japanese woodblock print of "The Vine and the Branches." Truly, in Christ there is no East or West!

Just when I had seen enough, I saw the blue mug on the windowsill, remembering the devoted woman who gave it to me. She loved the verse imprinted on it from Isaiah 40:31: "They shall mount up with wings as Eagles." The silver eagle in flight was fired into the mug. And I remembered Lisa Beamer, the widow of one of the heroes of United Flight 93 who prevented the terrorists from hitting their target on 9/11. She stood in the field in Shanksville, PA with others gathered at the crash site. She looked up and saw a soaring bird in the sky. The Word of God in Isaiah came to her and in her book "Let's Roll" she passes it on to us: we may be weary, down and out, but those who wait upon the Lord shall be strengthened and shall fly again with eagles' wings!

Inspiration is all around us if we are open to it. Often it comes through others. Often it comes through artists. Often it comes through experiences. Always it comes from God. Pray that you may be open to it.

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

Mr. George Bassler

Mr. George Laurence Bassler, 78, of Emmitsburg, died Wednesday, Jan. 22, at his home. He was married to Florence C. Bassler for 52 years. Born in Simpsonville, MD, he was a lifelong farmer, and a volunteer firefighter for 20 years with Clarksville Volunteer Fire Co. He moved to Rocky Ridge in 1964 and became founder and owner of Sand Rock Farm, and of B&H Equipment Co. Mr. Bassler was president for 6 years of the Maryland Brown Swiss Cattle Breeders Association. He was a member of Elias Evangelical Lutheran Church. Surviving in addition to his wife are five children. Funeral services were held at Stauffer Funeral Home, Thurmont, the Rev. Ronald Fearer officiating. Interment was in Lakeview Memorial Gardens, Sykesville.

Ms. Kimberly Cool

Ms. Kimberly Louise Cool, 22, of Emmitsburg, died Saturday, Jan. 25, in Oxford Township, PA., as a result of a single-vehicle accident. Born in Gettysburg, Pa., she was the daughter of Denise Cool of Emmitsburg and a member of St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church, where she worked in the rectory for 6 years. Ms. Cool graduated from Catoclin High School in 1998 and from the nursing program at Frederick Community College. She worked as a registered nurse at St. Vincent Care Center in Emmitsburg. Surviving in addition to her mother are her grandfather, George Albert Cool of Emmitsburg; an aunt, Diane Bassler and husband Roy of Emmitsburg; an uncle, Wayne Cool and wife Sandy of Taneytown; and nine cousins. The rosary was recited for her Jan. 28 at Skiles Funeral Home and a Mass of Christian Burial celebrated Jan. 29, at St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church, Emmitsburg, with her pastor, the Rev. William O'Brien, as celebrant. Interment was in New St. Joseph's Cemetery, Emmitsburg.

Mrs. Dorothy Finger

Mrs. Dorothy L. Saunders Finger, 90, of Thurmont, died Saturday, Jan. 25, at St. Catherine's Nursing Center, Emmitsburg. She was the wife of Earle W. Finger, who died in 1998. They were married for 63 years. Born in Clarksville, TN., she was a homemaker, assisted her husband's business with bookkeeping, and was active in PTA and Girl Scouting projects. Surviving are one daughter, Barbara Russell and husband Gordon F. of Carroll Valley, PA, and one sister, Shirley Pett of Alpharetta, GA. Private graveside serv-

ices and interment were scheduled for Lower Marsh Creek Presbyterian Cemetery, Gettysburg, PA.

Mr. Charles Messner Jr.

Mr. Charles William "Bill" Messner Jr., 58, formerly of Sabillasville, died Sunday, Jan. 19, at St. Catherine's Nursing Center, Emmitsburg. Born with Down syndrome he resided with his aunt and uncle, Helen and Harold Bittner, then with his cousin, Joan Fry, in Sabillasville. He attended Harmony Grove School, Jeanne Bussard Workshop, United Cerebral Palsy Center and Daybreak Adult Daycare Center, all in Frederick. Active in the community, Mr. Messner was awarded a life membership in the Blue Ridge Summit, PA, Fire Co. in 1985. He was a long-time member of St. John's United Church of Christ, Sabillasville, where he received a 43-year attendance pin in 1999.

Surviving are his cousin, Joan Fry, one sister, Rebecca Martin Dixon, and one brother, Robert N. Martin Jr. Funeral services were held at the funeral home, with his pastor, the Rev. Janet Commings, officiating. Interment was in Bethel Cemetery, Cascade.

Sister Georgia Mahon

Sister Georgia Mahon, 85, a Daughter of Charity for 68 years, died Sunday, Jan. 19, at Villa St. Michael, the province's retirement residence in Emmitsburg. Born in Baltimore as Loretta Geraldine Mahon, she attended Seton High School and St. Joseph's High School in Emmitsburg, and entered the Daughters of Charity in 1934 and was given the name Sister Georgia. She received her bachelor's degree in home economics in 1949 from St. Joseph College in Emmitsburg. She was a member of American Dietetics Association and Home Economics Association. At the age of 73 she retired and became a resident at the Villa. Sister Mahon is survived by a brother, Martin J. Mahon and a sister, Genevieve R. Miller of Salisbury. A funeral Mass was celebrated Jan. 23, at the Basilica of the National Shrine of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Emmitsburg. Her nephew, the Rev. Shawn Mahon, presided.

Sister Ambrose Maxwell

Sister Ambrose Maxwell, 90, a Daughter of Charity for 71 years, died Sunday, Jan. 26, at Villa St. Michael, in Emmitsburg. Born in Baltimore the former Margaret Frances Maxwell graduated from Seton High School in 1930 and attended St. Joseph College in

Emmitsburg before entering the Daughters of Charity in 1931. She received a Bachelor of Science degree in nursing from The Catholic University of America and a master's degree in nursing administration from St. John's University, Jamaica, N.Y.

After serving 59 years in the nursing field, advancing age and failing health brought her active duty to an end. She retired to the Villa. A funeral Mass was celebrated Jan. 29, at Basilica of the National Shrine of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Emmitsburg.

Cremation inexpensive, increasingly being used

Staff report

Cremation, as a way of disposing the remains of deceased persons, has been increasing, and not only because it is much less expensive. It gives families more time to gather for memorial services. Some hail the procedure also because it reduces the need for cemetery land.

The Cremation Association of North America predicts that by 2010 cremation rates will reach nearly 40 percent throughout the country, and 52 percent in Maryland. In 2000 the national rate was about 26 percent, and only 23 percent in Maryland.

Cremation can relieve the financial burden on families at one of the most trying times in their lives. Direct cremation with all basic services and simple container can cost less than \$1,000. Survivors very often have the ashes of a cremated body enclosed in an urn at a modest additional cost.

The families of those who donate their bodies to the Maryland Anatomy Board do not pay anything, not even for transportation. The Board (1-800-879-2728) picks up and distributes the bodies of deceased donors to teaching hospitals for the training of medical students.

The cost of traditional funeral home services, on the other hand, starts at close to \$2,000. That does not include the cost of a vault and liner, about \$500-600, nor of a casket which is \$1,300 or more. Bronze and copper caskets cost much more, about \$7,000 for bronze. The total cost of standard funeral home services amounts to least \$3,500.

Whether in a casket or an urn, a loved one's remains must be buried, and that adds another cost. Prices for a ground vault start near \$150 at Resthaven Funeral Home on Rte. 15 north of Frederick. Some vaults are made of concrete or stone. A bronze-lined vault increases the bill by about \$8,000.

Skkot Cody, director of Resthaven, which also operates a crematorium, suggests that survivors should not select a burial container frivolously. "Ultimately you can't fight nature," he said, referring to the limited lifetime of wooden caskets.

The motivation to have a corpse cremated isn't always related to price, Cody says.

Cremation is a more useful "means of disposition" than whole-body interment for other reasons. Often and friends live far away and cannot come easily or at all for a traditional burial and memorial service. If the body is cremated, the family can delay memorial services for a week or more after death, whereas a whole-body burial often requires burial within a couple days after death. The services can occur according to "the timeline of the family," Cody said.

At Resthaven's crematorium remains to be cremated are put in a container, which can be a casket, and this is placed in the cremation chamber. The container is subjected to temperatures between 1,600 and 2,200 degrees Fahrenheit for between 1 1/2 to 3 hours. This effectively reduces everything to ashes. The ashes are swept or raked into an urn or other container.

Cremation also opens up other options, including some that are peculiar — the cremated remains can be mixed with concrete to form an artificial reef, or the urn can be shipped into space, which Cody says he can arrange for about \$10,000.

—Continued on page 13

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.

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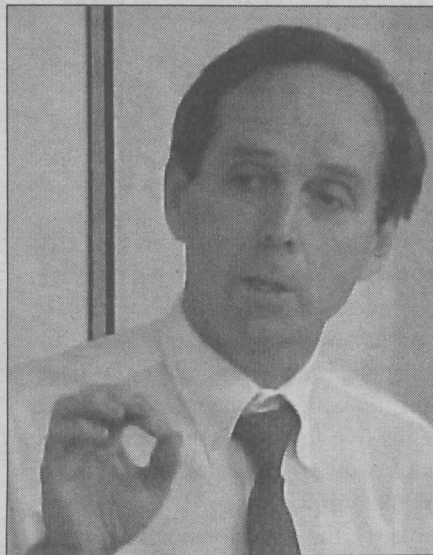
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The 1757 founding date on the Town signs is erroneous



Michael Hillman

I wish to clarify the questions surrounding my determination that the 1757 founding date listed on the town's welcome signs is in error. According to research conducted for an updated History of the Emmitsburg area, due out in 2006, the 100th anniversary of the publication of Helman's History of Emmitsburg, Emmitsburg was founded in 1785, not 1757. The 1757 date refers to the year Samuel Emmit bought 2,250 acres from Carroll family. Some of those acres include the area which is present-day Emmitsburg, but if one had a time machine, and could go back to 1757 or even 1784, they would not find a town, or even the beginning of a town. Instead they would find undeveloped land.

I am not saying there were no settlers in the northern part of Frederick County at this time. There clearly were. There were many families (i.e., Biggs, Hays, Elder, Diggs, Wilson, Mackinley, Brooks, Taney, etc.) that pre-dated Samuel Emmit. They owned farms and were all part of what was known as the Tom's Creek Hundred, an area which now encompasses Frederick County north of Thurmont. You will also recognize other Emmitsburg names (i.e., Zacharias, Troxel, Martin, Whitmore, Koon, Forney, Six, Williams, etc.) that came into the area between 1757 and 1785. However none lived on land deeded from Samuel Emmit to his son William in 1785, upon which he formed his town which he named Emmitsburg.

The first mention of the name "Emmitsburg" in the Frederick County land records is not until 1785. This is in a deed dated August 18, 1785, conveying 35 acres from Samuel Emmit to his son William. This deed indicates there was no prior existing town in what is now the town of Emmitsburg. The deed reads "...upon which the lots of a New Town called Emmitsburg are

laid out." Immediately after receiving title to this land William began to sell the lots off. I believe most people will agree that this event, as described in the deed, meets the requirements for the Random House Dictionary definition of the word found: "to set up or establish on a firm base or for enduring existence."

The current version of the town's history refers to seven founding families, "prior to 1786," residing in the town before its name was changed to Emmitsburg, and by inference, that the town had its beginning much earlier. However, legal land records clearly document that each of these seven families received their lots from William Emmit after he received the 35 acres from his father in 1785. In each of these 7 deeds, the lot is referred to as being in "Emmitsburg," and the buyer is required to build a house. Clearly, if these 7 families were required to build a house upon receipt of their lot, there were no existing homes on the lot, and therefore, no pre-existing town.

The first written histories of Emmitsburg, Samuel Motter's published history of Emmitsburg in the Emmitsburg Chronicle in November 1880 and James Helman's History of Emmitsburg published in 1906, each have the correct founding date of 1785. In addition to the histories claiming 1785 as the beginning of Emmitsburg, the National Register of Historic Places in 1992 also recognized 1785 as the official founding date of Emmitsburg.

But over the years, subtle changes have been made to the written accounts of Emmitsburg's history which helps explain why the incorrect founding date of Emmitsburg has been accepted. If one had to point to a given article where facts lost their way to folklore, it would be the January 31, 1908, edition of the Emmitsburg Chronicle. It was in this edition that the current erroneous version of Emmitsburg's founding was first printed. Like the old children's game in which one whispers into another's ear, who then whispers it to another, the story of Emmitsburg's founding got more and more convoluted as it was passed down from one generation to another.

I hope that this effort to correct the founding date of Emmitsburg will be embraced as an opportunity to rediscover Emmitsburg's rich historical past. The real facts of our history are more than worthy of pride.

—Michael Hillman

Emmitsburg Historical Society
Webmaster www.emmitsburg.net

Which founding date should Emmitsburg use?

Emmitsburg area resident, Michael Hillman, has launched a campaign to change the founding date of the town from 1757 to 1785, but he has not shown why this date is the only founding date for Emmitsburg.

Consider what "founding" means. *The American Heritage Dictionary* defines "found" as "1. to originate or establish (something); create; set up, as a college. 2. To establish the foundation of; lay a base for." From researching this issue I have learned there is no national or state law, no theory, and no formal rule for establishing the founding date of a town.

According to Mark Hudson, the executive director of the Historical Society of Frederick County, the founding date of a town is, "most often left to the citizens of the community to determine" (email to me, Jan. 20, 2003). Many towns do use the date the lots were laid out or when the first lot was sold, but others use different criteria.

For example, Thurmont uses a settlement date of 1751. During Thurmont's preparation for their 250th anniversary, an individual questioned their founding year noting that the lots were not laid out until later. The town officials chose not to second guess those citizens who had earlier selected 1751 and did not change the founding year.

Taneytown, like Emmitsburg, established their 1754 founding based on the date when their founder, Raphael Taney and his associate Edward Diggs, acquired the 7,900 acres on which the town is situated. Taneytown's lots were laid out 8 years later in 1762.

In most publications pertaining to the history of Emmitsburg that I've reviewed, the founding year 1757 is used with an accompanying statement indicating that the town was laid out in 1785. One is *Emmitsburg, Md. Picturesque and Historic*, published by the Chronicle Press in 1951. On p. 2 we read, "On August 12, 1785...may be regarded as the foundation day of our town." Clearly, the fact that Emmitsburg was laid out in 1785 is not a new revelation.

Yet, 6 years later, in 1957, Emmitsburg celebrated its bicentennial.

Documentation of the early settlement of the area is not obscure. Much is in James Helman's *History of Emmitsburg, MD* (Frederick, MD: Citizen's Press, 1906). It is contained also in the histories of area churches. The book, *Emmitsburg: History and Society*, edited by Dr. Emile and Mary Nakhleh (Emmitsburg Chronicle, 1976), includes essays about Emmitsburg churches whose origins



Linda Junker

date to 1730 - 1768. Another book, *Pioneers of Old Monocacy, the Early Settlement of Frederick County Maryland 1721-1743*, by Grace L. Tracey and John P. Dern (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1987), provides information about Robert Wilson whose land, *Wilson's Fancy* was in the vicinity of present day Emmit Gardens: This information has not been unknown.

Emmitsburg has a rich and wonderful history and at some point its citizens chose 1757 as their founding year. They chose 1757 knowing well that there were settlers in the area as early as 1733, that the town was laid out in 1785, and incorporated in 1825.

There has been no attempted deception by the citizens of Emmitsburg in using 1757 as their founding year. They are acknowledging that Samuel Emmit, with his initial acquisition of land in 1757, laid the base for the town that was to eventually become known as Emmitsburg...a community named in his honor and recognizing his far-sightedness.

I would ask that you, the elected governing body of Emmitsburg, to keep 1757 as the date when the Town was founded. The year 1757 has been the citizen's choice for at least a century, a tradition for many generations. Should the personal opinion of one individual and a few followers, most of whom are not voting, tax-paying citizens of Emmitsburg, move you, Emmitsburg's elected officials, to remove plaques, reword signs, postpone anniversaries, and disregard the opinions and feelings of current citizens and deceased predecessors? I hope not.

—Linda Kelley Junker
Director of Intuitional Research
Mount St. Mary's College
and Seminary

Our town was founded in 1757 as our country was in 1776

Emmitsburgians should remember 1757 as the year in which this town was founded for the same reasons that we celebrate 1776 as the year in which our country was founded. The actions, their effects, and the circumstances were similar.

On July 4, 1776, the leaders of the 13 Colonies declared them separate from Great Britain, and so divorced the Colonies from Britain and nullified the people's British citizenship. The colonials were now only Americans, bound together only as citizens of the Colonies in which they already lived.

On that first July 4th this new nation of 13 Colonies was not named "United States," its Constitution was not yet written, and it had no central government. It was in no sense geographically planned or legally defined. Why, then, do we hallow it as our national birthdate? I think it is because on that date Colonial Americans became a *distinct community* of people.

A nation is a people, not a government, not a body of laws, not a plot of land, not a map, buildings, or roads,

not a document. It is a community of people. This is why nations can exist *before* they possess their land, like the Zionists in the 19th century, and nations can exist *after* they're separated from their land, as governments in exile demonstrate. It's the same with towns. *A town is a community of people in a certain place*, with or without: streets, houses, plats, or legal incorporation. This has been true since before there were written records.

In 1757 Samuel Emmit created this town by doing something very like what the leaders of the American Revolution did. He divorced the land on which Emmitsburg exists from its previous owner. The people already living there were then no longer inhabitants of Charles Carroll's estate, but of Emmit's.

Like the Colonials, those people had no plan for roads, no town government or laws. But in 1757 they were made into the first Emmitsburg community because the *land where they lived was made a separate place*, and they were thereby made a *community distinct* from others in the surrounding region — just as the Colonies were made distinct, in 1776, from the rest of the world.

This event was unique among the important events in the history of our town. Settlers came to live in what is now the greater Emmitsburg area about 1732 or so, and there were Native

Americans before them. But neither settlers nor Indians were the first Emmitsburgians because this area was not yet a separate place. The town was not founded by their arrival. On the other hand, it already existed when its streets were laid out in 1785 and when it was incorporated in 1825.

It was Samuel Emmit who, by his purchase, made this area a separate place in 1757 and made its inhabitants a community, primitive but real. This is

why he became the founding father of this town, as much as Washington and other leaders of the Revolution were the "Founding Fathers" of our country.

If the parallel between 1776 and 1757 is not perfect, it is very close. Certainly, it helps justify the celebration of 1757 in the tradition of several generations of Emmitsburgians.

— Bill Steo
Emmitsburg



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EDUCATION

High school student to circulate with D.C. insiders in scholars program

Meghan Kelley, a student at Catocin High School, will attend the Presidential Classroom Scholars Program March 1-8 in Washington, D.C. The week-long program gives top high school juniors and seniors exceptional access to Washington insiders — members of Congress, presidential appointees, senior military officials, top business leaders and journalists. The students observe the U.S. Congress in action, visit congressional offices and debate current issues with peers. They also visit renowned sites in our nation's capital, including the White House. Other highlights: a Central Intelligence Agency briefing, a mock presidential election, and foreign

embassy visits.

Presidential Classroom is a non-profit, nonpartisan, civic education organization. It has given a similar opportunity to more than 100,000 high school students from the United States and abroad during its 35-year history. To be selected as a Presidential Classroom Scholar, a high school student must be a junior or senior with a minimum 3.0 grade point average. About 80 percent of the students attend by means of financial assistance from local businesses and organizations.

Presidential Classroom offers other programs of the same sort. Information: www.presidentialclassroom.org

Mount Saint Mary's News

By Shawn Day
Staff writer

Globetrotters to play at Mount

The Harlem Globetrotters will bring their world-famous basketball show to the Mount's Knott Arena next month.

Combining relaxed but flamboyant on-court moves with trick shots, fancy dribbling and elaborate team play, the renowned basketball act has entertained generations of people around the world.

The team was formed in 1924 by Abe Saperstein and played its first game 3 years later under the name "Saperstein's New York Globetrotters." Over time the team has changed its name, gone through several owners and seen fabulous players come and go.

The Globetrotters have played in more than 100 countries and have been led by such legendary NBA players as Wilt Chamberlain, Ervin "Magic" Johnson, Nathaniel Clifton and more recently former University of Kentucky standout Wayne Turner.

The team is owned by former Globetrotter Mannie Jackson, who purchased the team in 1993 from International Broadcasting Company (IBC). At the time, Jackson asserted himself as the first African-American to own a major international sports team.

Game time will be 7:30 p.m. on March 7. Tickets are on sale at the Mount; general admission, \$17.50; reserved seats, \$20; floor seats, \$45. Information: 301-447-6122; or www.harlemglobetrotters.com

McGowan Center to be used in March

Construction on the new McGowan Center is nearly complete. "Substantial completion," meaning only inspections are required before the building can be occupied, was reached Jan. 21.

The Mount expects to be using all offices by early March. The McGowan Center, which includes the new Patriot Hall and renovated Cogan Center, will be approximately 97,000 square feet. The previous structure, Cogan Student Union, was only 42,000 square feet.

Besides the new offices and dining facilities, the Center will house the Mount Bookstore on the upper level. It

will be roughly twice the size of the old store, which had been located on the lower level of the Cogan Student Union building until it moved to temporary quarters in a trailer in front of the Knott Academic Center.

Sr. Paula Marie Buley, vice-president and treasurer of the college, said the final price tag of the McGowan Center construction was about \$14 million. She added that the next campus construction project will be a \$2 million renovation of Borders Learning Center. The building is expected to be under construction until early August.

Sr. Buley said there are no plans for more construction following the Borders renovation, but said the administration will revisit the college's master plan to determine the best place for additional housing and other facilities.

Prof. David Rehm gets national honor

After spending the past 6 years as head of the Mount's freshman seminar program, Dr. David Rehm received national recognition last month for his work with first-year students.

The Houghton Mifflin Company and the National Resource Center for the First-Year Experience and Students in Transition named Rehm as one of 10 Outstanding First-Year Advocates. Rehm, an assistant professor of philosophy at the Mount, and the other 9 winners were selected out of a pool of 120 nominees. He will be honored at a conference in Atlanta, GA on Feb. 23, 2003.

Retreat planned

The Mount "2000 and Beyond" retreat will be held Feb. 5-7 in Knott Arena and the Dillon Field House, located at the ARCC on the east side of campus. The program is designed to help participants grow spiritually and become stronger in their Catholic faith by emphasizing the sacraments of reconciliation, ministry and the Eucharist.

Conferences, organized discussions, and Mass will be held for participants during the 3-day retreat. Meals, housing and a T-shirt are provided for the \$35 registration fee.

Those eligible to participate must be between the ages of 14 and 33. The Franciscan Friars of the Renewal will conduct the retreat.

Local Mount Students Achieve Dean's List

Local Mount Students Achieve Sophia A. Ritz, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph A. Ritz, Jr. of Emmitsburg, Md., and Jennifer M. Martin, daughter of Mr. and Ms. William W. Martin of Cascade, Md.,

are among the 360 students who achieved the honor of dean's list for the fall '02 semester at Mount St. Mary's College. Both students achieved this honor by maintaining a 3.4 or higher grade point average.

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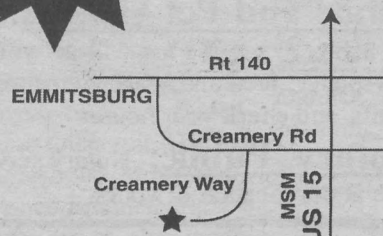
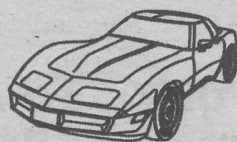
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Story program at ThorpeWood starts with open house Feb. 20

ThorpeWood Nature Center in Thurmont has teamed up with the Thurmont and Emmitsburg Branches of Frederick County Public Libraries to provide "3rd Thursdays at ThorpeWood," a story program for pre-schoolers. An Open House to kick off this unique project is planned for Feb. 20 from noon to 2 p.m. at the lodge at ThorpeWood. Families will be able to tour the lodge, learn about other ThorpeWood programs ThorpeWood for children, hear nature-related stories and songs, do a craft, and have some refreshments.

ThorpeWood, an environmental

retreat in the Catoctin Mountains, offers educational experiences for the young people of the Thurmont and Emmitsburg region. It is an ecologically based nature center on 30 acres with trails meandering through a forested hillside overlooking a native trout stream. Children can walk the paths that lead to organic gardens, a wildflower meadow, and an American chestnut orchard.

Librarians from the Thurmont and Emmitsburg libraries host the 3rd Thursday's program. Directions to ThorpeWood: www.thorpewood.org or call the libraries at 301-271-7721 or 301-447-2682.

Cremation

—Continued from page 9

Those responsible for the disposition of a corpse can arrange to have it obtained and brought directly to a crematorium without the services of a funeral director. There is a usually a transportation fee. But funeral directors, who also arrange for cremations, handle all other things that a family requires, such as the transfer and preparation of the remains for burial — embalming, cosmetizing, casketing — hearse rental, and supervision of a funeral service in a house of worship or elsewhere. Embalming is necessary only if there is going to be a viewing or open-casket memorial service.

While many religious groups denounced cremation in the past, Cody said many are changing their minds. Some are opposed to cremation because of their view of resurrection. They believe the exact same body, with the identical chemicals of which

it was composed in life, will be raised to live again. Cody noted that the Catholic Church once staunchly opposed cremation on the ground that it implied a denial of resurrection or of the holiness of the human body.

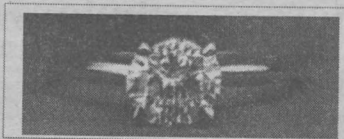
The Church's 180-degree turn is illustrated in *Policy on Catholic Church Funeral Rites*, a document issued by the Archdiocese of Baltimore, effective Jan. 13, 2000: "It is permissible, and even laudable, to donate one's body to science for purposes of research or individual organs for transplantation."

"As times change, opinions change," Cody said. "[Death] is always a very hard situation to get through. It's why a lot of people are pre-arranging so their family doesn't have to. When the time does come, the family doesn't have to make a lot of decisions and can begin the grieving process."

—Staff writer Shawn Day contributed to this report

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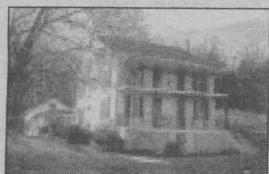
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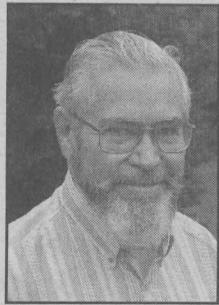


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The (retired) Ecologist's On making it through tough times



Bill Meredith
Dispatch Writer

George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, Charles Darwin and my wife all were born in February. That said, I am unable to find any further redeeming quality in this month; its only saving grace is that it's short. It's a cold, gloomy, depressing time. For animals the readily available food was eaten earlier, and they walk on a razor's edge between survival and starvation. It affects people, too; in northern European countries, where the whole winter is like that, such weather generates some of the world's highest rates of alcoholism and suicide. You can understand why the Vikings came south on their raids; the mystery is why they ever went back.

Years ago when I took my first field biology courses in graduate school, my major professor, Dr. Schwartz, put great emphasis on the Law of Tolerance. That "Law" is really a generalization formulated by the pioneering ecologist, Victor Shelford, in 1913; it states that it is the extremes of environmental factors like tempera-

ture, not the averages, that determine whether an animal can survive. Dr. Schwartz told us we would never really understand the problems animals face in surviving the extremes of the environment unless we experienced them ourselves; and we quickly got used to coming home from field trips frozen and soaked to the skin. I knew intuitively that Dr. Schwartz was right, but my wife never bought into it. She thought the whole idea was demented, although she never quite got up nerve enough to confront him about it. (She was younger then. A lot younger.)

By preference, I'm a warm-weather person. I hate to be cold, and the logical inclination is to stay indoors when it is acting like winter outside. But sometimes, logic runs afoul of guilt. When I began teaching my own ecology course, I had to make a decision the first time it rained on field trip day. I could have cancelled the lab (a sure road to popularity with the students), or invented some make-work lessons to be done inside (a logical formula for keeping the dean happy); but there in the back of my mind was Dr. Schwartz, watching. Guilt prevailed; we went out in the rain, and a precedent was born.

Initially it resulted in some grumbling in the ranks, but it never led to open revolt; and the next year, the word was out. Students knew getting cold and wet was part of the bargain when they signed up for the course. My wife continued to disapprove, but

the students soon developed a sort of macho attitude about the field trips; even the girls made wildly exaggerated boasts of the rigors endured while climbing College Mountain in a blizzard to measure trees, or wading through swamps in a hurricane to see the last surviving patch of *Lycopodium* on campus.

After I retired, my wife assumed age and decrepitude would combine with logic to put an end to such nonsense. However, that winter it rained on the day of the Christmas bird count, and when she voiced her assumption that I would stay home, the specter of Dr. Schwartz reappeared. Guilt prevailed again, as it has several times since. The controversy is reborn if there happens to be a snow flurry when I suit up to go on one of my regular bird watching jaunts in the winter. Even walking to the post office in a mild drizzle, as the English would do without a second thought, leads to discussions on the distinction between sanity and senility.

All of this came to mind because I walked to the post office in about 6 inches of new snow one day last month. One of the houses along my route has an old-fashioned wooden picket fence, and as I walked past, the corner of my eye caught a blur of gray at the bottom of the fence. It was a mouse, and if I had been a predator it would have been in serious trouble. The snow was packed too densely for it to burrow in quickly, so it did the next best thing; it dived behind one of the pickets and hunkered down, motionless, as I peered over the fence at it. It was shivering, partly from being forced to sit still in the shade, but mainly from nervous tension. I did not move, and after 3 or 4 minutes, it poked its head out and looked around. Another few minutes passed, and it decided that either I had gone away or I was not a threat; it darted back to its original location and resumed its business.

It was not the common gray house mouse; its white feet and belly indicated that it was either a deer mouse or white-footed mouse (hard to tell apart unless you have them in your hand). Sitting up like a squirrel, it selected a maple seed from the leaf litter where

the snow had been removed, peeled off the covering, and munched away, all the while peering nervously about for signs of danger. I watched it eat for another 5 minutes or so before going on.

The temperature was below freezing, and the mouse did not like the cold any more than I did, but neither of us was uncomfortable. Both of us have adapted. My adaptation is cultural; it consists of a complex infrastructure that provides me with a wool cap, a down jacket, gloves and boots, and, if it gets too bad to be outside, a snug house supplied with food, natural gas and electricity. The mouse has adapted ecologically; millennia of evolution have provided it with a fur coat, some insulating fat, and a metabolic rate that generates heat like a little furnace. The entrance to its nest tunnel was nearby—I spotted it while I was watching—and if it got chilled, it could duck back inside where there was a grass-lined nest, and, probably, a hoard of maple seeds.

The mouse's survival depends on only a few simple but ironclad mouse rules: don't let your insulating fur get wet; eat as constantly as possible to keep the internal furnace stoked; and watch the ground and the sky so you don't get eaten yourself. The same rules apply to the birds at my feeder. They fear only extreme conditions such as prolonged ice storms; as long as they can find food, stay dry and keep out of strong winds, they can endure much lower temperatures than those normally found in Emmitsburg. In fact, the only wild animals around here that suffer much from ordinary winter temperatures are possums. The warming climates of the past century have lured them north from their original Dixieland home, and they are ill equipped for winter — poorly insulated and unable to hibernate. Like homeless people in cities, even an ordinary winter is a time of misery for them, and February is the worst of times.

The mouse returned to its nest. I went home and sat by the kitchen window, watching the bird feeder and remembering old Victor Shelford and Dr. Schwartz. February will be over soon. If the rest of it is an average month, we'll survive.

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Last-minute entry wins bicycle from Library

Christopher McKenna, 9, was ecstatic when he won a brand new bicycle from the Emmitsburg Library on Feb. 3. "I didn't expect to win," Christopher said. His entry was a last-

minute submission in a raffle for children ages 6-to-12.

Contestants received a raffle ticket if they submitted a poster advertising their favorite story book. The posters

weren't judged but were required to include the contestant's favorite book's title and author. The winning ticket was drawn from a hat.

Christopher's mom, Denise, said, "The moral of this story is that it's never too late to enter." According to

him, his new American Gold racer, which is red, white, and blue, goes pretty fast.

Christopher's poster, with all the other entries, will be on display at the Library throughout February.



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Feb. 13	Thu.	Robert Morris	7:30 p.m.
Feb. 15	Sat.	St. Francis (Pa.)	7:30 p.m. Homecoming
Feb. 27	Thu.	Quinnipiac*	7:30 p.m.
Mar. 1	Sat.	Cent. Conn. St.	7:30 p.m.
Women's			
Feb. 1	Sat.	Monmouth	3:00 p.m.
Feb. 5	Wed.	UMBC	7:00 p.m.
Feb. 15	Sat.	St. Francis (Pa.)	3:00 p.m. Homecoming
Feb. 17	Mon.	Robert Morris	7:00 p.m.
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HEALTH

A word from the doctor

Your daughter is changing but you are not losing her

By Jane L. Delgado, Ph.D.
Special to
The Emmitsburg Dispatch

My daughter and I have always been able to talk since she was a little girl. But ever since she started junior high she hasn't been talking to me. She keeps telling me to just leave her alone when I ask about why she doesn't want to talk. I'm afraid. I hear so many things about what's going on. She's alone in her room a lot when she comes home from school. I don't know what to do and I'm scared I'm losing her. What can I do? We often hear about the special relationships that exist between mothers and daughters. While many of us cherish the memories of the closeness we experienced with a daughter when she was small, adolescence is a time when things change. In all likelihood what you remember as your daughter talking to you was not a conversation but rather an exchange of words during which you as the parent shared with your unquestioning child your values and beliefs. In these types of exchanges you laid the foundation to help shape your daughter's thinking as to what was right or

wrong. Moreover, you as the parent had the responsibility to set the tone and the limits of the conversation. As your daughter matures, she has to struggle to begin to define what is important for her and balance the demands of living in our society. She often will be unable to find the words to express what she is experiencing. But her feelings, whether they are wrong or right, are nevertheless real. Remember that junior high school is a time of major physiological, mental, and spiritual changes not just for your daughter, but for all the girls and boys around her.

You may want to encourage her to invite friends over while you serve food and try to understand the relationships with persons that she has selected to define as "friends". This is a confusing time that children and parents must muddle through.

What you must do at this time is keep the lines of communication open. This may mean that rather than talking, you listen to your daughter express what is on her mind. While you may disagree with her perceptions, you will improve the strength of your relationship by allowing her to tell you what she can. If you do not understand something, let her know that

too. You may want to encourage her to talk to a trusted adult (aunt, cousin, teacher) or professional—clergy, counselor, or mental health professional. In some cases parents seek professional help for themselves when it becomes obvious that they have issues from their own life that need to be resolved.

Keep in mind that sometimes words have one meaning for young girls and another meaning for parents.

The word "crush" is a good example of a word used by young people to explain how they feel even when they do not know what a crush actually is.

While a parent may see a crush as the first step towards early sexual activity, the child may see it as a silly

thing that some girls "get" for someone else. The tightrope you walk is one of being non-judgmental while at the same time giving clear guidelines as to what is and is not acceptable. Most important of all, you are probably not losing your daughter. If you try to listen to her and help her explain and understand her feelings, you will both help uncover the adult she is in the process of becoming.

—Dr. Delgado is a psychologist, and president and CEO, National Alliance for Hispanic Health in Washington, DC

[Editor's note: Dr. Delgado will discuss other family relationships in future columns.]

Routines and rituals can be good for us

During holidays families engage in various rituals and routines. Some people dread them, but according to a study in a recent issue of The Journal of Family Psychology, they can be useful.

A routine is a set pattern of activity that you don't think about after it's over, like everyone piling into a car to go get a Christmas tree. Rituals patterns of acts that evoke emotions or confer meaning. They both can enhance physical and mental health.

The study found special relevance to holiday routines and rituals. A review of related studies made over 50 years showed that they have many kinds of positive outcomes.

In families with predictable routines, children had fewer respiratory

illnesses and better health in general, and they performed better in elementary school.

Rituals provide an even greater benefit for emotional health. In families with strong rituals, adolescents revealed a stronger sense of self, couples claimed happier marriages, and younger children interacted better with their grandparents.

A caution by the study leader: Cramming too many rituals into the holiday season can increase rather than reduce stress. A family should gather together, talk about what makes members feel stressed, and agree to try avoid them. The family should also decide on "three things everybody looks forward to, and try to preserve them."

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Quilters



Mourning quilts a continuing family record

By Mary Ellen Cummings
Dispatch writer

In the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries Americans were mainly believers in Christianity. Of course, there were immigrants of other persuasions, but predominately Christian religious rules touched everyday lives in such a way that the laws of the church became the laws of the people. In some churches it was unlawful to walk on Sunday — except to services. There would be no cooking, no visiting — not even close neighbors or relatives. And there could be no Sunday funerals.

Black for mourning. In both the Old and New Testaments of the Christian Bible, mourning death is

related, and in some instances the length of time is set forth. However, the wearing of black mourning clothes and the requirement that everyone connected to the deceased must attend the funeral was church interpretation. Everyone had to remain at the grave site until all details were completed — with the exception of the older boys and the men. They had work to do at home and were excused.

Cover face of dead. The rules in all of the communities were not always the same — depending on the interpretation of scripture in the community. In *A Treasury of American Folklore* by Terri Harden (Barnes and Noble) we read of a German-American rite: "...was a custom... of

putting a piece of muslin over the face of the dead....when the coffin is carried to church.... then the muslin is removed." There is a possibility that this was ruled because of their idea what the scriptures meant, or it could have been superstition. It was thought by some people that covering the face would keep evil spirits from escaping and causing harm to others.

Cover all in room. In some communities it was deemed necessary to cover everything in the room where the body was laid out to be covered with white cloths. This meant mirrors, windows, furniture were covered, and the body. In other places were instances of using a black sheet to cover everything. It was usually made of linen which was very expensive, therefore all members of the family would borrow the sheet when needed. Often the linen was loaned to other people in the community.

Squares of cloth for the dead. In the nineteenth century and as late as 1945, viewings and the funeral were held in the home, with the body being in either a bedroom or the sitting room. It was most important to show respect for the dead by "laying them out" carefully and lovingly. For some communities it was a custom for the visitors to bring a square of cloth in dark colors to lay over the body. For a child it was white cloth. Later these

squares of cloth were sewed into a quilt and the name of the deceased was inscribed on the quilt, giving name, date of birth and of death. Since deaths were so numerous in the nineteenth century, often the same cloth or quilt used for the first family death had each ensuing death also inscribed. Although these facts were also written in the family Bible, it seems quilts of cloth outlasted paper and became permanent family records.

In a recent conversation with a local quilter, I was told that she could just barely remember a very old great-aunt of hers had died and was laid out in the home. The body was covered with some kind of cloth — maybe a quilt. She said she was afraid to go near.

The author, Esther Corderman of West Virginia and Maryland, told me that a quilter friend of hers had seen a coffin quilt at a show in Kentucky. However, it had been so far in the past that she could remember few details, but she thought it was a star of some kind in dark colors and white. This was no surprise to me as most of the references I have found to coffin or mourning quilts have been related to the area of Kentucky, Tennessee, West Virginia and Ohio.

— Continued next issue —

ART & LEISURE

What's the value of an art work?

How did this work of art get here? How can you know its value? Barry and Jean Hagen, owners of Hagen & Hagen Appraisers, Inc. of New Market, MD, will give some answers to the public at the Frederick County Art Association's (FCAA) monthly program, March 10, at 7:30 p.m. They will speak about the process and tools used to determine the provenance and value of a piece of art

Barry Hagen, an accredited senior appraiser with the American Society of Appraisers, was the Court Appraiser for the Superior Court of the District of

Columbia. There he appraised the estates of prominent persons like J. Edgar Hoover. Jean Hagen is also a member of the American Society of Appraisers and an expert in textiles, antiques and residential contents.

The Hagens' appraisal firm was responsible for appraising all gifts received by President and Mrs. Clinton during the Clinton Administration.

The program will be held at the Delaplaine Visual Arts Education Center, 40 S. Carroll St., Frederick. Information: 301-371-3571, or joining the FCAA: 301-662-9189.

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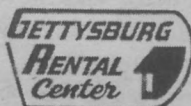


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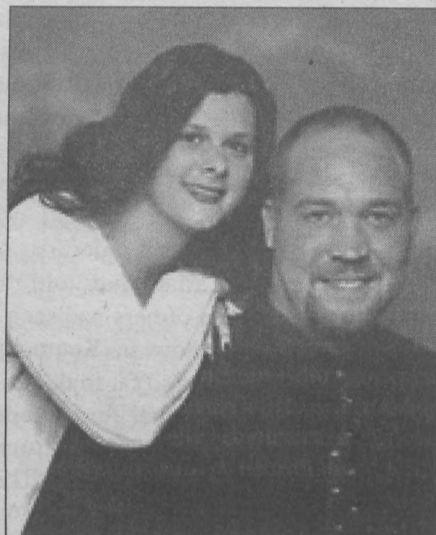
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PEOPLE TO PEOPLE

People To People is a section in The Emmitsburg Dispatch for personal and family news, announcements, and messages. Unlike Letters to the Editor this is paid space and has the lowest rate in the newspaper. It's not for businesses. The submission must be signed and include the writer's address and phone number to be used for verification. The Dispatch will only edit for punctuation, grammar, and spelling. Deadline for submission is the 15th of each month.

Cool-Smiley engagement



Beth Ann Cool and Dean Andrew Smiley have gotten engaged. Miss Cool graduated from Catoctin High School and Mount St. Mary's College, Emmitsburg, with a degree in psychology. She is a group leader at the Emmitsburg Child Care Center. Mr. Smiley graduated Waynesboro Area High School, Waynesboro, PA, and Pennsylvania State University, Harrisburg, PA., with a degree in electrical engineering. He is a senior software engineer at e-LYNXX Corp. in Chambersburg, Pa. They plan to be married on Oct. 4.

Student ambassador seeks aid

Let me introduce myself. My name is Ashley Coleman. I am a seventh grader at Thurmont Middle School. Last summer I volunteered 3 weeks in "volunteer Frederick," with children from 6th to 12th grade. We painted murals on churches, cleaned parks, and helped at an animal sanctuary. Sports are very important to me. Since I was 4 years old, I've played soccer. This summer, July 7-28, I will travel to Australia and New Zealand as part of the People to People Student Ambassador Program.

While I'm there I will have many new experiences. This venture will give me a chance to participate in the culture of another country. I will snorkel with the sea life of the Great

Barrier Reef, experience bushwalks, bonfires, stargazing and kangaroo spotting. A family there will provide shelter for me and then I will attend their schools. Touring their historical towns will fill some of my free time. I'm sure other opportunities will emerge.

This trip is quite expensive, I need \$5,000 by May 1. My family could use some financial assistance. If you would like to contribute to my once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, checks can be made out to the People to People Student Ambassador Program and mailed to Ashley Coleman c/o Stacy Coleman; 8721 Hornets Nest Road; Emmitsburg, MD 21727. Thank you in advance for any help you can do for me!!

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A Special Thanks

On behalf of the Wivell family we would like to thank everyone that gave us so much support on the tragic loss of our son, Russell.

We want to thank everyone for all the cards, flowers, thoughts, prayers, and for being there for us in our time of sorrow. You never expect to have to bear this type of pain in your life when you lose a loved member of your family so early in life. As we all know, we

do not know what is in God's plan, so let your children know that you love them and stay close to them. As we found out you have them one day and the next day they can be gone.

Again, thanks to everyone for helping us get through the holidays.

God Bless everyone,

Roy and Rose,

Kim, Jason and Joshua Wivell

The Catoctin Pregnancy Center says Thanks!

To the people who attended or helped make our year 2003 dinner the success it was: We thank and deeply appreciate all who in any way helped with the spaghetti dinner on January 18th. From those who bussed tables, made meatballs, furnished meat for the meatballs, served the spaghetti sauce, ticket takers and kitchen workers and those who performed the hundreds of tasks necessary to put on such a dinner Thank you!

To the merchants who furnished the basic needs to make such a feast - Carriage House Inn; Cozy Rest-aurant; Trout-Jubilee in Emmits-burg; Mountain Gate Restaurant; McDonalds Restaurant in

Emmitsburg; the Ott House; Shamrock Restaurant in Thurmont; Emmitsburg Deli; Rocky's Pizza in Thurmont.

We appreciate the generosity of patrons who contributed monetary gifts to the Center. Of course, the dinner and the Center would not be successful without the cooperation of the volunteers and the community.

Thank all of you for your support and encouragement during our annual fundraiser.

-Staff of the Catoctin
Pregnancy Center

Wivell Annual Christmas Party

By Helen Reaver

The descendants of the late Roy and Helen Wivell held their annual Christmas party on December 29, 2002, at the Rocky Ridge Fire hall. Approximately 266 attended. *Our family now totals 430.*

The blessing was led by Dave Wivell, Sr., and Paul Wivell said the prayer for our deceased members. Debbie Swiderski also said a prayer for peace.

Entertainment was provided by Dave and Betty Wivell and their families. They chose to have a magician, Dean Burkett, from Hagerstown, MD. Very entertaining for the children.

Phyllis Green gave the update on the Wivell/Rosensteel history. She and husband Bob while visiting her brother Eric and family in Germany toured Switzerland and visited a church where our 5 great-grandmother Wivell was baptized in 1727. Also, Louise Snodgrass (former MD Delegate) is our 1st cousin, once removed on the Rosensteel side.

Paul then gave an update on the Wivell family. We had 12 births, 5 Weddings, 2 deaths and 1 adoption. Best wishes were extended to our

Anniversary Club whose members were married 5, 10, 20, 25, 40, and 45 years.

Paul then inducted David Wivell into the Roses & Thorns Club (over 62). Special recognition went to Henry Wivell, Jr., for winning 2 horseshoe tournaments at Savage River in July (the male-bonding vacation).

Door prizes given were: fruit basket - Emily Kelly; \$10.00 - Kathy Shields, Phil Wivell, Charlie Wivell, and Ellen Wivell; \$5.00 - Brandon Northrup, Julia Wivell; deer bologna rolls - Patrick Reaver, Jeremy Wivell, Karen Oliver, CJ Pappos, and Mike Wivell.

Our nativity scene portrayed by the great-grandchildren: Mary: Adiyane Wivell; Joseph: Levi Wivell; Jesus: Ian Douglas Orndorff; Angels: Maya Swiderski, Erica Wivell, Maria Kelly, Sydney Reaver, Carrie Reaver; Kings: David Wivell, Kimberly Shields. (Writer regrets other names omitted). Viki Stevens led the senior group in singing the traditional Christmas songs.

Mr. & Mrs. Santa Claus then appeared and distributed gifts to the young and old. A most enjoyable day was held by all.

Looking Ahead

Feb. 19. History from Thurmont to PA line. "North of Hunting Creek" is the title of a talk to be given by Rev. Dan Nusbaum at the winter luncheon of the Emmitsburg Business and Professional Association. Fr. Nusbaum, who is Mt. St. Mary's official historian, will speak about the history of an area that extends from south of Thurmont to the Pennsylvania line. The luncheon/meeting starts precisely at noon in the Tack Room at the Carriage House on S. Seton Ave., but guests are advised to arrive a little earlier. Lunch: \$10. Reservations: 301-447-3110.

Feb. 20. Art Exhibit and Lecture. Artist to be Announced. Lecture begins at 6 p.m. in Upper Flynn Hall. Exhibit opens at 7 p.m. in Memorial Gallery (in Memorial Gym).

Feb. 21. Faculty Musical Recital. Dr. John Wickelgren of Mt. St. Mary's. Piano music by Handel, Chopin, Albeniz and Brahms. 7:30 p.m. in Knott Auditorium

Feb. 21-April 27. Works by women artists, on exhibit in the Smith Gallery at the Washington County Museum of Fine Arts in Hagerstown. The 26 works include portraits, landscapes and still life in a realistic tradition. Among the earliest paintings included in the exhibition are several by members of the Peale family. A catalogue of the collection will be available. Information: (see Feb. 16).

Feb. 22. Country Butchering, and Buffet Breakfast at the Activities Building (old fire hall) from 6 to 10 a.m. offered by the Rocky Ridge Volunteer Fire Company. Advance orders by Feb. 15; Bob Kaas (301) 447-2488, or Helen Ogle (301) 271-2880, or Dennis Mathias (301) 271-4252.

Feb. 23. "Run Out Concert" by Mount Chorale, 3:30 p.m. at the St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Basilica on S. Seton Ave.

Feb. 23. Chamber music recital, by the Gallery Quartet at 3 p.m. in the Washington County Museum of Fine Arts in Hagerstown. Bartok, Rossini, and Crisantemi. Mark Kapeluck and Frederick Shoup on violin, Jere B. Stern on viola, and Vsevolod Lezhnev on cello. Information: 301-739-5727, or www.washcomuseum.org.

Mar. 1. Spring Bazaar and Supper, will be held by Elias Lutheran Church in Emmitsburg starting at 1 p.m. Supper, adults: \$8, children 6-12: \$3, car-youts \$9.



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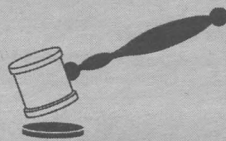
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