

# The Emmitsburg Dispatch

VOL VII, No. 10

News and Opinion in the service of Truth

MAY 15, 2008

## Emmitsburg tax rate to remain the same next year

BY JAMES RADA JR.  
News Editor  
jrada@thedispatch.us

EMMITSBURG, Md. – Emmitsburg's tax rate of 36 cents per \$100 of assessed value is enough to fund Mayor James Hoover's \$1.9 million town budget for the next fiscal year.

Hoover presented the budget to the town commissioners during the May 5 town council meeting.

The budget plans for a "limited amount of income from impact fees and permit fees," Hoover said. He explained that the current budget included such fees from 30 houses and the town had only seen nine built so far.

"Due to the current housing market, I expect the town will see another year with a limited number of homes built," Hoover said.

The proposed budget represents a 16.2 percent increase over the current budget, or nearly \$270,000. Much of the increase comes from an 18.9 percent increase in property tax collections. Although the tax rate won't increase, assessments values are, which will mean that many property owners will still pay more in property taxes next year.

Among the items in the budget are \$521,485 for direct employee expenses, \$311,075 for community deputy operations and \$218,900 for trash removal. It also included continued funding for items including the afterschool program, pool parties, concerts in the park, the annual art competition and the farmer's market.

-See **Tax Rate** on page 3



## COME TO THE EMMITSBURG CARNIVAL

EMMITSBURG, Md. – Mother Seton School's 26th Annual Emmitsburg Carnival is May 19 to 24. The carnival will be held at the school, 100 Creamery Road in Emmitsburg. Activities begin each night at 6 p.m.

The nightly entertainment schedule for the carnival is Monday - Catotin Promise Band; Tuesday - Traditions Unleashed Band; Wednesday - Elaine & Denny's Classic Karaoke and DJ Service; Thursday - The Dixie Hiway Band; Friday - Roll the Dice and Saturday - Tommy Can't Count (Classic Rock). There will also be rides, bingo and plenty of food to please everyone.

- J. Rada

- Dispatch File Photos

## Become a junior deputy in Emmitsburg

BY JAMES RADA JR.  
News Editor  
jrada@thedispatch.us

EMMITSBURG, Md. – The Frederick County Sheriff's Office is planning a Junior Deputy Academy in Emmitsburg this summer.

"This is an event we tried for the first time last year in Middletown and got a lot of positive feedback," Cpl. Michael Grunwell with the Frederick County Sheriff's Office told the Emmitsburg Town Council on April 21.

The academy is a half-day

program for children from 5 to 11 years old. The children work through stations that give them a close-up look at police vehicles, K-9 units, SWAT operations, the science behind crime scene investigations and more.

"It was established to create another opportunity as an outlet for kids in a positive manner," said Emmitsburg Mayor James Hoover. "It allows them to see the police from a perspective they don't normally see."

He said that town council supported the idea because it builds on the success of the sheriff's office's

bike rodeo that was held last year.

The academy will be held at the Emmitsburg Community Park (behind the Emmitsburg Community Center at 300 S. Seton Avenue) on June 30 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Lunch will be provided. The rain date is July 1.



## A GLASS ACT:

Emmitsburg Glass Company celebrates 20 years

See page 9 for coverage

## Emmitsburg's 2008 Concert in the Park series

EMMITSBURG, Md. – Come join in the sound of music as it fills Community Park on Friday evenings this summer. The concerts begin at 7 p.m. and are free. All you have to do is bring yourself and a blanket or chair to sit on.

The 2008 Concerts in the Park are:

- **June 27** – Emmitsburg Chorus (Kicks off the concert season and the celebrations for Community Day on the June 28.)
- **July 18** – Rick n Company (Emmitsburg Elementary teacher Julie Crisafi's folk, blues and country band.)
- **August 1** – Al Parsons (rock band)
- **August 29** – Dan Sherman (classic rock)
- **September 12** – BlueStreak (blues rock)



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## A Word from the Mayor Committee vacancies filling fast

Last month I wrote about the need for new committee members to fill vacancies on several of the town's committees and boards. Since that time, I have focused my attention on recruiting volunteers for our parks and recreation, streets and transportation and water committees. Although I still have a few vacancies left, I am very happy to say that I have had a great response to all committees. At the May 5, 2008 town meeting, three new members were appointed to the water committee creating a full committee with no vacancies. At the May 19, 2008 town meeting I will be recommending several new committee members for the streets and transportation and the parks and recreation committees.

One project the water committee will be tasked with is educating the public on ways to conserve water and recommending suggestions to the town council on how to slow down and filter storm water. Slowing down the water allows it to seep in to the soil and replenish

our wells and have less impact on stream banks. Filtering the water reduces the amount of pollutants being released in our streams.

There are very few requirements in becoming a parks and recreation or streets and transportation committee member. To improve communication and help clarify each committee's role, I will be providing an orientation for all new and existing committee members.

If you are considering volunteering for one of the committees, please contact me. I am looking for as many volunteers as possible to fill each committee and I'd be happy to provide you with any additional information to help you make your decision.

Bottom line: committee members can be a valuable asset to the town. With committee members and elected officials working together we can provide many new opportunities and improvements for the town.

James Hoover  
Emmitsburg Mayor

## Oil companies aren't the problem, government is

In response to Carole Bishop's letter, "Government should take action against oil companies," Mrs. Bishop should realize that the federal government took in \$1.2 trillion in taxes on petroleum products last year. The government took this with no risk, and no investment. They took three times the profit of the oil companies. Forty billion dollars is a lot of money, but compared to the risk involved in the oil industry, and the ratio of gross to net profits, it is relevant to most business. Most industries run on a 3 - 4 percent net profit. The oil industry is at or about 2 percent.

Your grocery store makes a profit, your dry cleaner makes a profit, your bank makes a profit. It's amazing that people will fight to keep a private company from making a profit or fight to keep a bank from raising an ATM fee 50 cents, but go right along with local, state, and federal governments that raise our taxes by 30 - 40 percent, and say nothing! When we all wake up and figure this out, only then will it become affordable to live in America again.

Kirby Delauter  
Thurmont

## Sign seen as vindictive

Enough is enough. Those who have been watching the latest drama on Main Street acting out are amused, yet saddened, by your behaviors. We are still a small town and while talking over fences, we observe and comment about what we see going on within our town. For several months we have glanced at the sign stating that Tracie and Dick have moved from one shop on Main Street to another shop on Main Street. Initially, I found this sign to be benign and amusing. However, lately the sign has been parked outside of the Emmitsburg Family Barber Shop. Now I become angered as

I walk and drive past this sign. I sense that parking in this particular spot reflects sour grapes, and appears to be a vindictive act. Tracie and Dick do not live within our town, yet the owner of the Family Barbershop does. Jamie is a hard working and kind soul who has clearly been through enough heartache. Tracie and Dick, please stop this mean spirited play. Your point has been made.

Therefore (as my mom would say), Enough is enough!

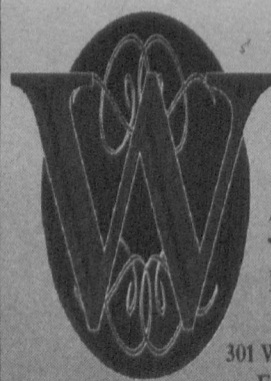
Missy Scherr-Phillips  
Emmitsburg

### CORRECTION

In the May 1, 2008 *Emmitsburg Dispatch*, the date of death for Glenn Glass was April 20, 2008.

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## How might the Mount be improved?

The Mount should make more efforts to strengthen its Catholic identity by developing in its students virtues that reflect those of Christians who truly strive to live their faith. Since it is a Catholic institution, I was disappointed during my four years there that emphasis was placed on values that reflect a secular institution, such as academic achievement, freedom of expression and expansion. The Mount needs to assume more responsibility in conveying the Church's teaching in the areas of academics and recreation. Reconsider promoting or allowing on-campus activities, lectures and performances that may confuse some as to how a Christian should live. How does a college which invites comedians who poke fun at Catholic ideals or promoting plays that contain "adult content" for the sake of artistic expression distinguish itself from a secular college? Reconsider whether our founder Fr. Dubois, who fought to uphold Catholic values, would approve of the secularization that this univer-

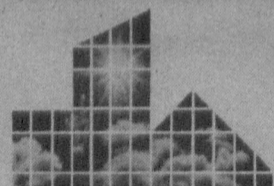
sity seems to be striving toward. I believe that it is the responsibility of the whole community, administration, faculty and students to convey and instill in the students an appreciation, respect and desire to understand and practice virtues that reflect those of our founder. Models of responsible, faith-filled individuals who are not afraid to contradict the ideas of current culture should be provided to these students. I applaud the university for making some efforts to do this but it is not enough. Do not lose your Catholic identity for the sake of being accepted by society. Do not become a Catholic institution in name only. The question that must be asked is how do you demonstrate your Catholic identity daily in your actions? This may require that you walk more as Christ called his disciples to walk, a path that does not follow the ideas of the world.

Katherine Major  
Emmitsburg

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

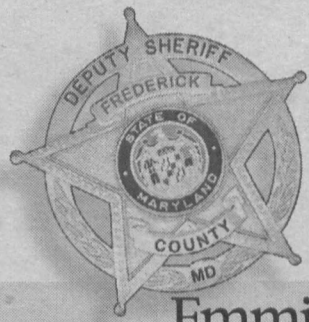
*The Dispatch* encourages its readers to express their thoughts and opinions about issues that appear in this publication or affect the community. Letters must be exclusive to *The Dispatch* and should be no longer than 300 words in length. They must be signed and include the writer's address and phone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

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## C 10-43: For Your Information Community deputies serving Emmitsburg

### Emmitsburg's having a Bike Rodeo and Junior Deputy Academy

BY DFC JOHN BARTLETT  
Contributing Writer

EMMITSBURG, Md. — The Frederick County Sheriff's Office Community Deputy Unit has scheduled two events for area children. On May 17, starting at 10 a.m., the 2nd Annual Emmitsburg Bike Rodeo will be held behind the Community Center, in the parking lot, at 300 South Seton Avenue. On June 30, from 9 a.m. — 1 p.m., the Junior Deputy Academy will be held behind the Community Center in the town park, behind 300 South Seton Avenue.

Last year's Bike Rodeo was a success with a large number of children (and some adults) attending. This year's Bike Rodeo will focus on bike and helmet inspections, a bike course, and bike safety tips. A local bicycle shop will be at the rodeo to provide bike inspections and minor bike repairs. The bike course includes several stations that

the Frederick County Sheriff's Deputies must complete during their Patrol Bike certification class. The course will be fun and challenging, focusing on maintaining safe control of your bicycle while riding through the course. Commissioner Glenn Blanchard attended last year's rodeo and was quite impressive with his bike riding skills. We hope to see him out this year on the revamped course.

The Junior Deputy Academy is quickly approaching. This event requires pre-registration. The registration forms can be picked up at the Emmitsburg Town Office at 300A South Seton Avenue. Registration forms must be completed and mailed by Friday, May 23. Registration is limited to the first 200 children. The Junior Deputy Academy is a first for Emmitsburg and is for children ages 5-11. The academy will give kids a close-up look at law enforcement and the tools of the trade. Kids will

see first hand what it is like to be a police officer. They will participate in scenarios, dust for fingerprints, see Sheriff's Office equipment, watch a K-9 demonstration, receive information on Sheriff's Office programs, and much more. The Junior Deputy Academy is being provided at no cost to kids, with lunch provided. Parents are not required to stay during the academy. A t-shirt will be given to the kids upon completion of the academy.

These events are a great way for the area children to meet the deputies of the Frederick County Sheriff's Office and have fun doing it. I encourage everyone to come out to the Bike Rodeo May 17, and get your kids pre-registered for the Junior Deputy Academy held June 30. If the community has any questions about these events, leave a message on my voicemail at (300) 600-3933. Hope to see you all at these events.

## Staiger wants commissioners to nominate committee members

EMMITSBURG, Md. — Emmitsburg Commission President Chris Staiger would like for the town commissioners to be able to nominate citizens for town committees. It is currently a responsibility that rests solely with the mayor.

The town has had difficul-

ties filling the 23 volunteer positions on the town's planning and zoning, parks and recreation, streets and transportation, water and ethics committees. Mayor James Hoover said that the committees serve as elected officials' extensions into residents' concerns.

Staiger suggested that if the commissioners were able to nominate committee members, it might make it easier to locate residents willing to serve. Staiger said he would bring the topic up at future meeting.

- J. Rada

## Tax Rate

-Continued from page 1

The budget also includes \$200,000 from the town's fund balance to pay down the amount owed to switch the town employees to the state pension plan. The lump sum payment will still leave the town with more than \$400,000 in its fund balance.

The proposed budget also includes a separate \$708,104

capital improvement budget, down 5.2 percent from the current year. Money in this budget will go towards projects like the Community Park walking trail, paving the pool parking lot and repaving various town roads.

The commissioners will now review the budget. While they may vote to change funding to various items, the final budget must balance. The new budget will take effect July 1.

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**EBPA Upcoming meetings:**  
**May 20** - Update from the Emmitsburg Town Officials.  
6:30 pm, Carriage House  
**June 18** - Members connect.  
11:30 a.m., Carriage House

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# Tickling the ivories



Noah Holmes, 11, will play several piano pieces, including two pieces from the composer Chopin and a duet with his piano teacher (Carolyn Eyer), at the 10:30 a.m. service on May 18 at Elias Lutheran in Emmitsburg. Noah is doing this performance because of his great music skills and also because he and his family will soon be moving from the area.

- PHOTO COURTESY OF SHANNON HOLMES

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Help clean up Willow Rill

EMMITSBURG, Md. – Bring your gloves and insect spray and help clean up Willow Rill on May 30. The project, sponsored by the Emmitsburg Lions Club, Emmitsburg Elementary School and the Emmitsburg Business and Professional Association starts at 6 p.m. at Community Park. The goal of the project is to remove the trash and debris along Willow Rill from the Memorial Park to Community Park.

- J. Rada

### Appointment made to water committee

EMMITSBURG, Md. – The Emmitsburg Town Commissioners voted unanimously to appoint Kim Gore, Libby Briggs and Jon Greenstone to the Emmitsburg Water Committee. Along with existing member Gary Pozzouli and commissioner liaison Joyce Rosensteel, the committee is now full. The new members will start their term on July 15, the date of the next water committee meeting.

- J. Rada

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## Emmitsburg Town Meetings

### Municipal meetings

<b>Town Meeting</b> May 19, 7:30 p.m.	<b>Town Meeting</b> June 2, 7:30 p.m.
<b>Parks Committee</b> May 20, 7:30 p.m.	Meetings are held at the Emmitsburg Town Office, Emmitsburg Community Center, 300A South Seton Avenue, Emmitsburg. For information call (240) 629-6300 or visit <a href="http://www.emmitsburgmd.gov">www.emmitsburgmd.gov</a> .
<b>Planning and Zoning Commission</b> May 26, 7:30 p.m.	



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REGIONAL NEWS

## Gallery Stroll rescheduled for May 23

THURMONT, Md. — Due to a scheduling conflict the Main Street Gallery Stroll in Thurmont, which was planned originally for May 9, was rescheduled for May 23 from 6:30 – 9 p.m. Enjoy wine tasting and music from Harold Staley performing free at Cool Beans and the Glade Valley Travelers performing free at Mechanicstown Park while you visit the Main Street shops and enjoy local artist Rebecca Pearl's newest work.

- J. Rada

## 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Wivell Walk on June 14

THURMONT, Md. — The 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Michael L. and Douglas A. Wivell Walk will be on Saturday, June 14 at Thurmont's Community Park. You can come and walk anytime from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. while helping raise money for area children to participate in area athletic programs.

The walk is three times around the park at whatever pace suits you. The total distance is roughly three miles.

Registration is \$10 or whatever amount you feel comfortable giving. You may even donate without walking. Money goes to the Wivell Memorial Fund, which was established to

provide financial assistance to the youth of Emmitsburg and Thurmont so that they can enjoy participation in school and community sports activities and attend various sports camps. Pre-registration is NOT necessary. Just come and walk.

Complimentary beverages and snacks will be served throughout the walk.

Call (301) 695-3869 or (301) 271-2682 for more information. Donations can also be mailed to the Wivell Memorial Fund, 9511 Appold's Road, Rocky Ridge, MD 21778.

- J. Rada

## President Bush signs Journey Through Hallowed Ground National Heritage Area into law

WATERFORD, Va. — On May 8, 2008, President Bush endorsed the Journey Through Hallowed Ground National Heritage Area, signing the 38<sup>th</sup> National Heritage Area into law. The JTHG NHA recognizes the cultural, historic and scenic resources within the entire JTHG corridor—the region that generally follows the Old Carolina Road (Rt. 15/231) from Gettysburg, Pa. through Maryland, to Monticello in Albemarle County, Va.

This region, known as "Where America Happened", holds more American history than any other region in the country with nine Presidential homes (Ash Lawn-Highland and Oak Hill (Monroe), Kennedy's Country Home, Camp Hoover, Eisenhower National Historic Site, Montebello (Taylor), Monticello (Jefferson), Montpelier (Madison), Pine Knot (Roosevelt), and Camp David, 73 National Historic Districts, the largest collection of Civil War Battlefields, significant sites from the French and Indian War, the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812, 15 historic Main Street communities, numerous scenic roads, rivers and landscapes.

The Journey Through Hallowed Ground Partnership is a public-private partnership

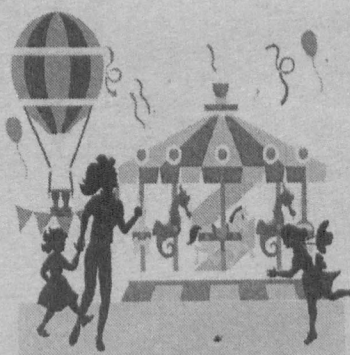
comprised of every elected body within the four-state region and over 150 other partner organizations all working collaboratively to provide

opportunities for interpretive historic, heritage education and recreational programs that celebrate the American heritage found along this region.

### 26th Annual Carnival May 19 – 24, 2008

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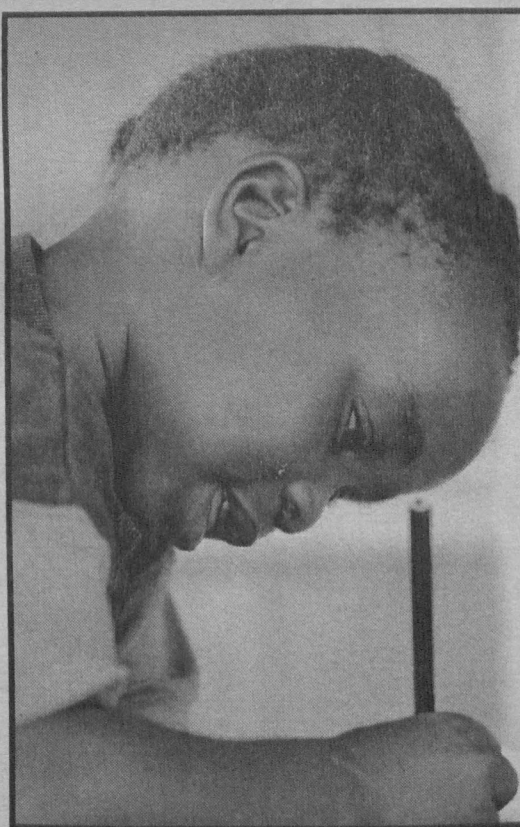


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[www.ZambiaHope.org](http://www.ZambiaHope.org)

Saturday, May 17  
10am to 6pm

224E North Church Street  
Thurmont  
(Near the CVS & Peking Palace)

Donations to cover shipping to Zambia are also needed.

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[www.HopeMountainFoundation.org](http://www.HopeMountainFoundation.org)

REGIONAL NEWS

# Donate to Zambian orphans

THURMONT, Md. — Hope Mountain Foundation is encouraging residents of northern Frederick County to donate their used computers, children's clothing, teddy bears and school supplies to Zambian children orphaned by HIV/AIDS, on Saturday, May 17, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Donated goods can be dropped off at 224E North Church Street in Thurmont, a storefront near to the CVS and Peking Palace.

Hope Mountain is receiving used computers from the Frederick County government,

saving taxpayers the cost of recycling, said Thomas Cromwell, an HMF director. He said that already some 100 computers have been donated by individuals, the county and the Frederick County Board of Education.

"There is little you can do with a used computer once you upgrade to a faster one," Cromwell noted. Most people just throw their old computers away, even though they still work. However, "Junk here can be precious in Africa," he said.

Hope Mountain ([www.HopeMountainFoundation.org](http://www.HopeMountainFoundation.org)) is a Frederick-based charity supporting Zambia Hope International ([www.Zambia-Hope.org](http://www.Zambia-Hope.org)), which runs a farm and several schools to help some 1,200 of Zambia's 1.25 million children orphaned by HIV/AIDS or made vulnerable for one reason or another.

The plan is to prepare a container of donated items and ship it to Zambia in the near future, Cromwell said. Hope Mountain needs help with the shipping costs, Cromwell said.

According to Arts Council Executive Director Chris Glatfelter, "We're pleased to be a partner with EMBARQ on this annual opportunity for local photographers to show their skill in capturing Adams County's scenic beauty."

Guidelines and entry forms for the contest are available through the Arts Council office in Gettysburg, 18 Carlisle St, Suite 201, at Gettysburg Photo, 168 Carlisle St or online at [www.adamsarts.org](http://www.adamsarts.org). Deadline for submissions is June 2. There's no fee to enter the contest and photographers may submit up to five photos. Cash prizes will be awarded for the top three photos.

Entries will be on display at Gallery 30, 30 York Street, Gettysburg, July 21-Aug. 1, where the public may select its favorite shot for the People's Choice award. On First Friday, Aug. 1 at Gallery 30, there will be a public reception from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. with the contest winners announced at 6:30 p.m. For more information about Adams County Arts Council programs, membership, or arts classes, contact (717) 334-5006 or email [info@adamsarts.org](mailto:info@adamsarts.org).

# Adams County photo contest opens

GETTYSBURG, Pa. — EMBARQ and the Adams County Arts Council are teaming up again for the annual photo contest. Adams County photographers or

Arts Council members are invited to enter photos of local scenes. The winning photo will be used on the cover of the Gettysburg phone book.

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*Bent*  
George A. [unclear] [unclear]  
Susan N. [unclear] [unclear]

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# FSK planning anniversary

UNION BRIDGE, Md. — Calling all Francis Scott Key High School alumni, former teachers and former staff! Preparations are underway for celebrating the 50th anniversary of the opening of the school. A whole host of special activities will begin in August, 2008. If you have pictures, other memorabilia, stories or information from FSK's first 50 years that you would like to share, please call Jr. Zepp at (410) 857-1661 or Tim Harrison at (410) 751-3320.

EDUCATION

# Attention Mother Seton School alumni

EMMITSBURG, Md. — Mother Seton School is looking for its alumni. In April 2010, the school will celebrate 200 years of Catholic education in Emmitsburg and it wants all of Mother Seton alumni and alumni from St. Euphemia's School, St. Anthony's School and St. Joseph College to participate in the celebration.

The school's Bicentennial Committee is also looking for any memorabilia from any of these Emmitsburg schools descended from Mother Seton's original St. Joseph's Academy and Free School, which was started in 1810. Any photos, old uniforms, PTA notes, posters,

letters, graduation programs, and anything else that may be of interest are being sought. If anyone knows of any alumni or have any questions or ideas, please contact Katherine Marshall the board chair or the Bicentennial Committee members: Elizabeth and Humberto Benitez, Jennifer Buchheister, Sister JoAnne Goecke, Tricia Hahn, Angie Hamlin, Judy LaCroce, Noreen O'Donnell, Pat Orner, Dan Reaver, Sister Ann Claire Rhoads, Anne Shumaker, Gwen Topper, Susan Valenti and Mary Diane Wivell.

The biggest task for the Bicentennial Committee is finding all of the alumni that have

graduated from the schools that sprang from the St. Joseph's Academy and Free School.

Graduates of 1958 have a distinct honor — being among the first to graduate from Mother Seton School — the last remaining offshoot school of the St. Joseph's Academy and Free School — started in 1810 by Elizabeth Ann Seton in the Emmitsburg Valley.

Please send any alumni information to: Development Office, 100 Creamery Road, Emmitsburg, MD 21727 or call (301) 447-3165; [www.motherseton-school.org](http://www.motherseton-school.org).

- T. Buchheit

## Spring plantings



- PHOTO COURTESY OF MOTHER SETON SCHOOL

During Mother Seton School's Ground Day, students and volunteers planted over 300 donated trees and shrubs to create a riparian buffer to reduce erosion along the sides of the streams that border the school's property. The plant species were chosen for appeal to area wildlife and being adaptive to the ecosystem. Pictured above Pastor Jon Greenstone helps students prepare the soil for planting.

## Learn more about farm safety

JEFFERSON, Md. — The Frederick County Farm Bureau will be holding its annual Farm Safety Camp on June 24-25 at the 4-H Camp and Activities Center. Campers age 8-13 are invited to join us for this year's camp and "Kick Off for Safety."

- This year's camp includes:
- Food safety
  - Personal safety/self-defense
  - Internet safety/bullying
  - Tractor safety
  - Handicap role playing

• Survival safety Registration is \$5 per camper. For more information call Diane Ogg at (301) 748-7252 or e-mail her at [diane.ogg@fcps.org](mailto:diane.ogg@fcps.org).

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## BUSINESS

# Baseball brought radio to Thurmont

BY ELIZABETH M. PIAZZA  
Contributing Writer

THURMONT, Md. — Vic Leisner loved the Orioles and 1966 proved to be a great year when they won the World Series 4-0 over the Los Angeles Dodgers. Leisner loved the Orioles but living in a small town in northern Frederick County, there was no radio station to tune into to listen to the games. Until he started one.

An ironworker with a background in electronics, Leisner founded WTHU, a small radio station in Thurmont that would serve Thurmont, Emmitsburg and the surrounding areas. With help from his teenage son, William, Leisner built the 155-foot guide tower for the radio station, a job that would normally require an eight-person crew. Together the two drew up plans for a studio. Local contractor, Albert Staub, was awarded the job.

## Going live

On June 12, 1967, WTHU sent out its first broadcast with a blessing from Rev. Robert Braden of Thurmont Methodist Church. The airways were soon transmitting Orioles games and adult contemporary music, which is now referred to as "oldies".

"The story Vic always told was that he opened the station to hear the Orioles games," said Lauren Colby, the attorney who helped obtain the original FCC license for the station. "I think the main reason he started the station was to make money—he was a great businessman with a lot of vision."

WTHU was issued a 100-watt AM radio license, one of the last stations to be issued such a license. It operated daily from 5 a.m. until 12 a.m.

WTHU was located in an old cow pasture and it wasn't unheard of for cows and horses to graze nearby. Michael Betteridge, president of the Christian Radio Coalition, Inc., recalls being told that the cows would even stick their heads

in the window of the studio from time to time.

Stephen Hess, a student at Mount St. Mary's in the late 1960's, was an announcer at WTHU and was always amazed at how many people would say they heard him on the radio.

"It was a tiny radio station," Hess said. "When you were there, it was just you." Hess is now the Director of Research, Development and Evaluation for Frederick County Public Schools.

## New owners

In 1971, Leisner sold WTHU to Petrina and Lauren Colby (now Petrina Aubol). They continued with the same format running from 5 a.m. until 12 a.m. Ten years later, they became the second radio station in the country to add a satellite music source. The ABC network provided the station with network programming while WTHU continued to add local news and commercials. At the time, the FCC changed existing rules allowing radio stations to stay on the air without a disc jockey, enabling WTHU to offer programming 24 hours a day.

According to George Wireman who hosted Wireman's Thurmont World, the call sign, WTHU, stands for "with you" and not Thurmont as most assume. Wireman was hired by Aubol and worked for the station for more than 20 years.

On September 15, 1979, when former President Carter collapsed during a road race near Camp David WTHU was the first station to break the news. The top broadcasters in America came to broadcast from WTHU, recalls Aubol.

Along with music and news programming, WTHU covered all the events that took place in Thurmont and Emmitsburg and the community came to rely on the station as a primary news source.

"In my evaluation, WTHU was an outstanding small town radio station," said Mike McGough, air personality at WTHU in the late 1970's into the early 1980's. "There

was no daily newspaper for northern Frederick County and WTHU functioned as a daily news source to a degree you don't hear of much on radio anymore. WTHU served that purpose at a high level of performance and the level of talents involved was extremely high." McGough is now the district manager for First Media Radio, runs four radio stations and a cable television station and teaches at Penn State.

## A new sound

In 1989, Charles Walmer joined WTHU and purchased the station in 1992, carrying it into 2008, when he sold it to the Christian Radio Coalition for \$150,000. Christian Radio Coalition, Inc., hopes to continue to build on the reputation and level of commitment to the community set by the previous 41 years. The station will officially begin broadcasting under the Christian Radio Coalition on Monday, June 9.

The Christian Radio Coalition, Inc. was formed four years earlier by a group of five men who worked at WJTM, a Christian radio station in Braddock Heights, after WJTM was purchased by an NPR affiliate.

"We began to look for somewhere to continue to broadcast Christian radio again because we feel it is such a part of our lives and we have a calling for this," Michael Betteridge, president of Christian Radio Coalition, Inc. said. Betteridge is also the operations manager with [www.wjtm.org](http://www.wjtm.org) and he hopes to blend some of the existing programs

## THE NEW WTHU SPONSORS ITS FIRST CONCERT

THURMONT, Md. — The Christian Radio Coalition will host its first concert at the Lynfield Event Complex on Saturday, May 24, 2008 from 7-9 p.m. The concert will be preceded by a partnership banquet and silent auction to raise funds for new Christian radio station WTHU. The banquet begins at 5 p.m.

National Christian recording artist, Jami Smith will play for the first time in Frederick along with her band. Smith's music is for anyone who has experienced the pain of losing someone they loved deeply, for anyone who has been betrayed, for anyone who is searching for meaning to their life in a confused and dangerous world, for anyone who is seeking joy and happiness. Her new song "Faith in You" was written and born out of the tragic loss of a friend to breast cancer. She has been called "folksy and acoustic, powerful and brilliant...striking the perfect balance in both."

For more details please see the WTHU website at [www.wthu.org](http://www.wthu.org) or call WTHU (301) 639-4323.



— STEPHANIE LONG / THE DISPATCH

Thurmont's radio station WTHU, pictured above, will be under new ownership and change to a new format on June 9.

at WTHU with new programming.

Although Vic Leisner was not a very religious man, his son William turned toward religion. He went on to open three Christian radio stations in Florida and according to Betteridge; William always hoped that WTHU would become

a Christian radio station as well.

"More power to them if [the Christian Radio Coalition, Inc.] can find a niche, make money and serve Christian purposes at the same time," said Colby. "I believe Vic would have felt the same way."

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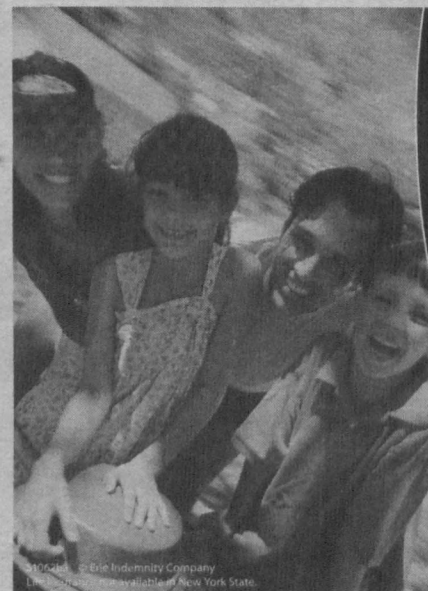
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# Emmitsburg Glass Company

## 20 years of growth and community commitment

BY STEPHANIE LONG  
Dispatch Staff Writer  
slong@thedispach.us

EMMITSBURG, Md. — It's a big glass-filled building that sits along Route 15 in Emmitsburg. Not too surprisingly, this glass-dominated structure is the home of Emmitsburg Glass Company. Once a small company consisting of four brothers and a brother-in-law, the company has grown into much more.

"For the first couple of years we did subcontracted labor, home-improvement jobs to create a paycheck," said Dan Reaver, president of Emmitsburg Glass.

Initially the company was headquartered in vice-president Greg Reaver's garage before moving to the Castle Farms building on Sixes Bridge Road. In those early years the company's name was Emmitsburg Panes, which created a problem.

"Everyone thought we were a paint company," said Anne Reaver, human resources director. So after 10 years, when the company started to take on larger commercial projects, the name was changed to Emmitsburg Glass Company and Dan and his brother Greg took over and moved into a new building on Creamery Way, which is now the home of W.F. Delauter & Sons.

"Our first real glass jobs as a company were the Sovereign Bank on Route 40 in Frederick and a small shopping center in Washington D.C.," Dan said.

Slowly, the company grew and after making it through a plateau that lasted several years, the company started to become prosperous.

"The money went back into the business, making sure that all the employees got paid," Anne said. "The owners (Dan and Greg) put themselves last, which has helped them sustain the business."

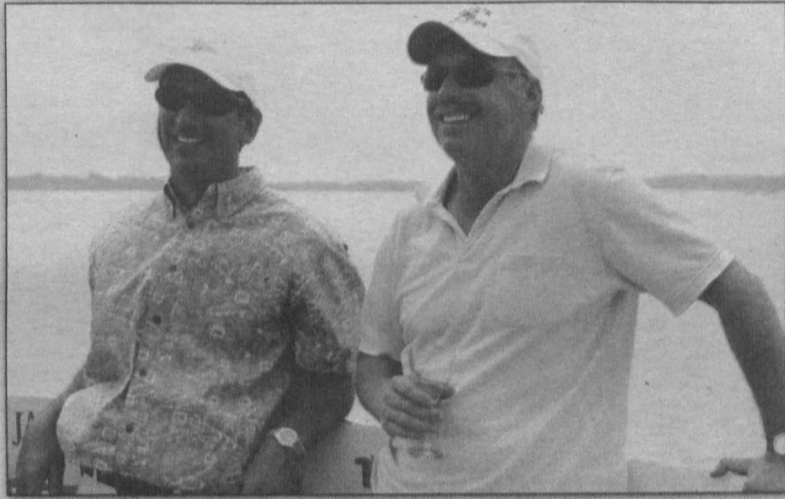
As the company continued to grow the owners constantly reinvested in the business always looking to expand its place in the market.

Today Emmitsburg Glass Company employs nearly 100 people, most of which are "very happy," Anne said, and the company has worked on jobs all over the region, including some major projects such as the University of Maryland's Comcast Arena and several in Baltimore's Inner Harbor.

In 2007 the company glazed three of Maryland's top 50 construction projects, including the No. 1 top project, Harbor East Parcel B, according to The Daily Record. The Harbor East job, located in Baltimore's Inner Harbor, is approximately 1,078,000 sq. feet.

Despite the company's growth and achievements in the commercial construction industry, the Reavers have maintained an attitude of putting employees and the local community first, which may be why the company still exists today, 20 years later.

"We keep safety in mind and have a decent salary and good benefits," Dan said. "People like the small town atmosphere here." And the company is committed to keeping that atmosphere.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF EMMITSBURG GLASS COMPANY


Top photo: Brothers, Greg Reaver (L) and Dan Reaver, owners of Emmitsburg Glass Company, take a break from work to spend time with employees during their summer picnic. Employees were treated to an all expense paid boat cruise from Annapolis to St. Michael's where there was a crap feed for lunch. Above: One of the first projects Emmitsburg Glass completed was a small shopping center in Washington D.C.

"We're very community conscious," Anne said. "We grew up here and want to make sure it stays a nice place to live and work."

The company moved into its new 53,000 sq. ft. headquarters at 100 Creamery Court in 2006. The project was awarded a Community Development Block Grant which funded infrastructure repairs to the

town of Emmitsburg's water and sewage lines. The repairs corrected a long-standing problem that had severe environmental impact. The Frederick County Business Advisory Council and the Office of Economic Development awarded the glass company's new facility as Frederick County's 2006 Development Project of the Year.

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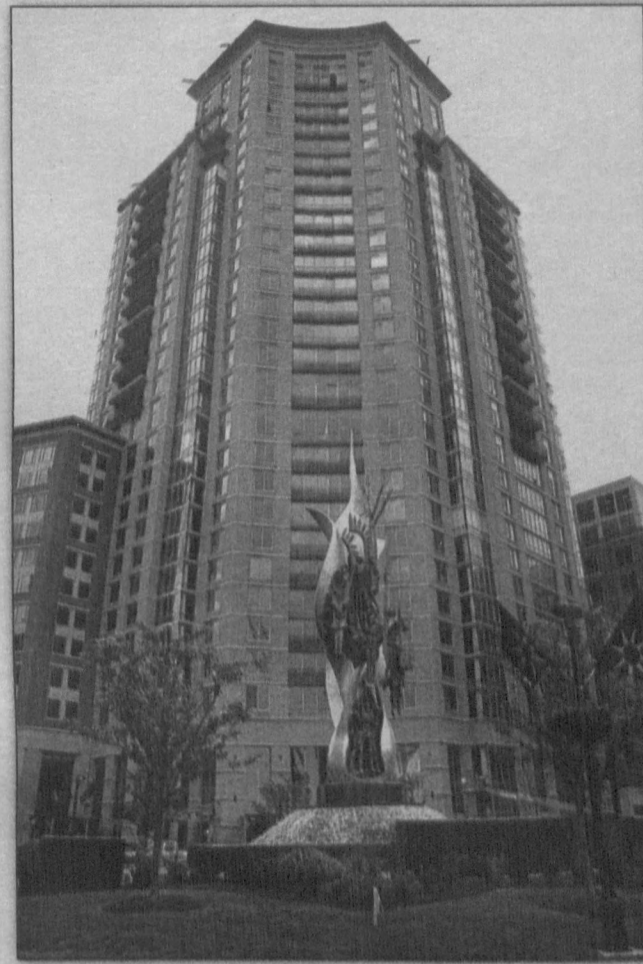
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In 2007 Emmitsburg Glass Company glazed three of Maryland's top 50 construction projects, including the No. 1 top project, Harbor East Parcel B. The construction project, located in Baltimore's Inner Harbor, is approximately 1,078,000 sq. feet.

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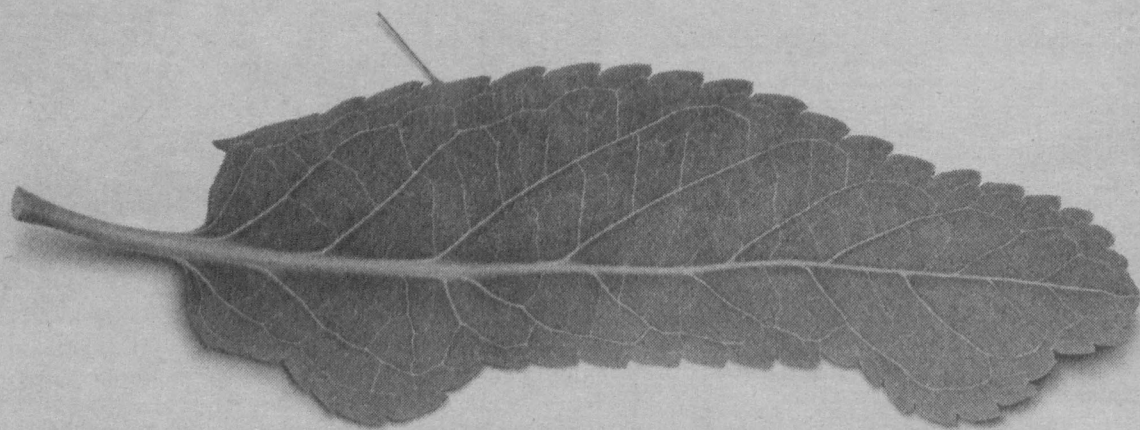




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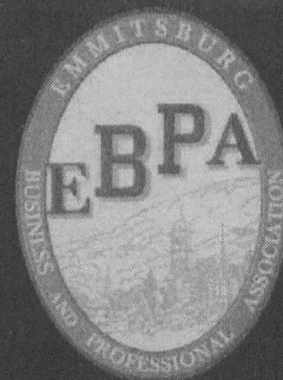
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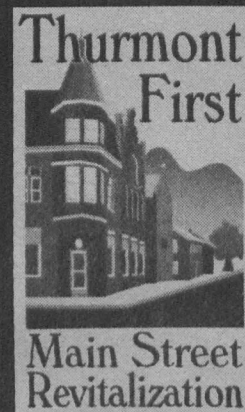
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### Emmitsburg Business and Professionals Association Meeting

*May 20, 2008*  
Carriage House Inn  
6:30 p.m. social, 7 p.m. dinner  
Emmitsburg Town Manager Dave Haller and Emmitsburg Town Planner Sue Cipperly will speak to the group and the EPBA scholarship fund will be presented.



### Thurmont Economic Development Meeting

*May 21, 2008*  
Cozy Restaurant & Inn  
Dinner available at 6 p.m.  
Meeting at 7 p.m.  
Guest Speaker: Michael Betteridge will be speaking on how WTHU can work with the community and businesses.

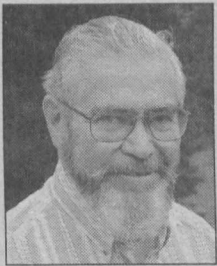
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# Of elms and orioles



BY BILL MEREDITH  
*Dispatch Columnist*

"The hubs were of logs from the 'Settler's ellem;'"

Last of its timber, they couldn't sell 'em,

Never an axe had seen their chips,

And the wedges flew from between their lips,

Their blunt ends frizzled like celery tips."

...*Oliver Wendell Holmes, 1858: "The Deacon's Masterpiece"*

"...they are soon cut off, and we fly away."

...*Psalm 90*

When I finished my Master's degree in 1957, I had two job offers. One was at a college in a coal-mining town in West Virginia; the first thing we saw when we went there for the interview was a despondent miner sitting on a curb on Main Street, drinking from a bottle in a brown paper bag. My wife had grown up in that kind of culture and she was depressed by the thought of living there. We then came to Emmitsburg for our second interview and drove down a Main Street lined with elm trees that arched out over our heads, and when we reached the square and turned toward the college we passed a functioning blacksmith shop near what is now the Carriage House. It was classic small-town America. We stayed.

The lot where our house now stands was a hayfield when we bought it in 1968, but it immediately began the process of ecological succession that would produce a forest ecosystem. The first trees to appear were mostly

trashy colonizing species like mulberry, box elder, Tree of Heaven and silver maple, but scattered among them were elms whose seeds had blown in on the wind. They grew rapidly, over a foot a year, and quickly created what my grandchildren call "The Great Forest." If things had been as they were when Dr. Holmes wrote of the Wonderful One-hoss Shay, the elms would have dominated the area; but things had changed.

Around the time of World War I, elm trees in Europe began to die from a mysterious disease. It was found to be caused by a fungus that was transmitted from tree to tree by bark beetles. The fungus originally came from Asia, but it was identified in 1921 by a Dutch botanist, so it became known as "Dutch Elm Disease." It was accidentally brought to America in 1931 in some logs that had been shipped from France to Cleveland, Ohio. From there it spread rapidly all over the country and probably got to Emmitsburg about the same time I did. By the mid-70s, when the young elms were flourishing in my field, most of the old trees on Main Street had died.

The elm was truly a noble tree; its record size may have been attained by the Sauble Elm, a Canadian specimen which reached a height of 140 feet, and was 260 years old when the disease killed it. Elms were ideal shade trees because their trunks branched repeatedly as they grew, resulting in a form that spread out like the spray of water from a fountain. Botanists, not generally known for poetic eloquence, refer to this growth form as *deliquescent*, a lovely, euphonic, mouth-filling word that actually sounds like the thing it describes. Despite this form, the species was sturdy and withstood storms without splitting, for the wood was extremely tough. Holmes' description of its effect on axes and wedges was literally true;

when the Sauble Elm died, a craftsman ruined three carbide router bits while making a coffee table from a slice of its trunk.

Most of the elms in my field died by the time they reached 20 feet in height, but one grew vigorously past the 40-foot mark, and I began to hope it might be resistant to the disease. But about three years ago I saw the tell-tale yellowing of leaves in the upper branches, indicating that the fungus was growing into the water-conducting cells of the trunk, and the tree was dead within a year. When I went to cut the lawn for the first time this spring I found a 30-foot branch had fallen into the yard; despite the wood's toughness, it rots quickly after the fungus hits it.

When migration season arrived this spring we had several unexpected visitors at the feeder outside the kitchen window; there was a rose-breasted grosbeak and an indigo bunting, which had never been in the yard before. But the most surprising one was an immature male Baltimore oriole that arrived on April 12. It is not a seed-eater, so it usually isn't seen around winter feeders, and it was far ahead of schedule, so it was having a hard time finding

a decent meal. It was probably attracted by the crowd of other birds at the feeder, and seemed befuddled by the flurry of cardinals and finches bickering over sunflower seeds. It pecked at the suet cake for a couple of days and then wandered on in search of better things. Being inexperienced and so early in the season, I knew it probably wouldn't come to a good end, but that's the way evolution works, and I didn't dwell on it. Instead, I started thinking of elm trees.

Orioles originated in South America, and when they moved north at the end of the Ice Age, they developed an association with elm trees. Because of the way elms grew, their smallest branches arched outward and hung down, and the orioles found that attaching their pendant, bag-shaped nests to the ends of these branches made their eggs safer from squirrels. As the elms died out all over the country, orioles had to shift to other trees, where their eggs and nestlings are more vulnera-

ble to raiders. Biologists believe this is one of the reasons oriole populations are declining.

I hear orioles singing nearly every day when I am out in the yard or garden. Most of the trees in the area are maples and oaks; they produce quantities of edible seeds, and are full of squirrels all summer. So the orioles seem to be most active around the old sycamore tree next door, where they have nested for the last few years. It is a big old tree, probably 60- or 70-feet tall, and its branches are not graceful and pendant like the elms; but they do bend enough to hold an oriole's nest; and the squirrels don't tend to be in that tree very much. But the future is not bright; sycamores are also afflicted by a fungus disease, anthracnose, and while it does not kill as quickly as the Dutch Elm disease, it is spreading. The orioles may become like the octogenarian in the Psalm, soon to be cut off and fly away... except that they will have nowhere left to fly.

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## OBITUARIES &amp; BIRTHS

**Mr. Ralph V. Portner, Sr.**  
**November 11, 1925 – May 11, 2008**

Mr. Ralph V. Portner, Sr., age 82, of Dayton, Ph, died Sunday, May 11, 2008. Ralph was born on November 11, 1925 near Thurmont. He was an Army veteran of World War II, serving the Big Red one. Ralph was a loyal employee of Miami Valley Hospital for 31 years and a dedicated member of the Aces Athletic Club.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Harry & Stella Portner; sisters, Marie Kohlerman, Margaret Miller, Elsie Miller; brother, Carroll Portner, all of Maryland; and grandson, Joshua Portner. Ralph is survived by his wife of 57 years, Shirley Broadstone Portner; sister, Palma (Johnny) Willard; brother, Harry (Linda) Portner; brother-in-law, Mike (Judy) Broadstone; children, Vernon (Christine), Michael (Victoria), Marilyn (Jim) Zaidain, Charlotte, Frank (Margie), and Julie; grandchildren, Kara, Elizabeth (Dave) Seibert, Matthew, and Kaitlynn; great-grandchildren, Zachary and Ethan; numerous nieces, nephews and friends in Maryland and Ohio.

Family received friends Wednesday, May 14, from 5 – 8 p.m. at the Meyer-Boehmer & Reis Funeral Home, 1733 Brown St., Dayton, Ohio. Prayer service was held 9:30 a.m. Thursday, May 15 followed by a Mass of Christian Burial at 10 a.m. at Holy Family Catholic Church. Burial followed at Calvary Cemetery, Dayton, Ohio. Memorial contributions

may be made to the Mueller Society at Miami Valley Hospital, One Wyoming St., Dayton, OH 45409.

**Sister Margaret Ann Walsh, DC**  
**November 22, 1914 – May 2, 2008**

Sister Margaret Ann Walsh, DC died at Villa St. Michael, the province's retirement residence in Emmitsburg. She was 93 years of age and 66 years of vocation. A Mass of Christian burial was held at 11 a.m., Tuesday, May 6, at the Basilica of the National Shrine of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Emmitsburg.

The former Margaret Walsh was born in Baltimore, one of eight children of John and Delia Joyce Walsh. She lived in St. Martin's Parish, and graduated from St. Martin's Academy in 1933.

Margaret entered the community of the Daughters of Charity in 1936 and took the name Sister Margaret Ann. She attended St. Joseph College, Emmitsburg, received her bachelor's degree in nursing education in 1951 and her master's degree in administration, nursing education in 1956 from The Catholic University of America, Washington, DC.

With the exception of about six years, Sister's apostolate in the community was in healthcare. After completing the seminary [novitiate] in 1937, she taught elementary grades in New York at Utica Catholic Academy, Utica, and St. John Elementary School in Albany.

In 1943 Sister Margaret Ann began her nurses' training which culminated into a career that lasted forty-two years with assignments as director of schools of nursing, instructor in nursing, coordinator of nursing, and hospital education director in Daughters of Charity institutions in Maryland, Massachusetts, New York, Florida and Virginia.

In 1985 Sister Margaret Ann was assigned to Sacred Heart Hospital in Pensacola (FL) and worked in the pastoral care department there until 1992. She then returned to St. Joseph's Provincial House in Emmitsburg and served as pharmacy manager until her retirement to the Villa in 1997.

She was a member of the American Nurses Association and Council of Continuing Education of ANA. Sister Margaret Ann is survived by a sister, Sister Julia Walsh, DC, Emmitsburg (MD), nieces Sister Mary Bernadette Forney, DC, Emmitsburg; Margaret Ann Graham and Angela Kinlin (NJ); Bernadette Shine (PA); Dolores Costello, Eileen Walsh, Mary Monica Cook (Baltimore); Kathleen Tokouzis (Greece); Loretta Simpson (CA); nephews Paul Forney, John Walsh, Dennis Walsh and Patrick Walsh (Baltimore) and numerous grandnieces/nephews.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Daughters of Charity Support Fund for the Elderly and Infirm Sisters, 333 South Seton Avenue, Emmitsburg, MD 21727.

## DEATH NOTICES

**Mr. Lewis A. Cool**, of Emmitsburg, died Friday, April 18, 2008.

A Memorial Mass was held Tuesday, April 22 at 11 a.m., at St. Joseph's Catholic Church with the Rev. Steven P. Trzeciecki, C.M., as celebrant. Inurnment was at the new St. Joseph's Cemetery, Emmitsburg.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to St. Joseph's Catholic Church, 47 DePaul St., Emmitsburg, MD 21727 or The Kidney Foundation, 1107 Kenilworth Drive, Suite 202, Baltimore, MD 21204.

Online condolences may be made at [www.myersdurborawfh.com](http://www.myersdurborawfh.com).

Arrangements were made by the Myers-Durboraw Funeral Home in Emmitsburg.

**Ms. Julia Mae (Monard) Hess**, of Emmitsburg, died Tuesday, April 29, 2008.

The family received friends Saturday, May 3, 9 a.m. until the time of service at 11 a.m., at the Myers-Durboraw Funeral Home, 210 W. Main St., Emmitsburg, with the Rev. Donnie Jane Cardwell officiating. Burial followed in the Resthaven Memorial Gardens, Frederick.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Humane Society of Frederick County, 5712-D Industry Lane, Frederick, MD 21704.

Online condolences may be made at [www.myersdurborawfh.com](http://www.myersdurborawfh.com).

**Mr. Gary "Sparkie" Joseph Sanders**, of Emmitsburg, died Wednesday, April 30, 2008.

Family received friends Sunday, May 4, 2 - 3 p.m., with memorial services beginning at 3 p.m. from Stauffer Funeral Home, 104 E. Main St., Thurmont, with officiate Elder Nathan Mizzell.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Sanders family c/o P.O. Box 824, Emmitsburg, MD 21727 or the Emmitsburg Ambulance Co. Inc., 17701 Creamery Road, Emmitsburg, MD 21727.

Online condolences to the Sanders family may be expressed.

**Mrs. Florence M. (Helgesen) Warren**, of Fairfield, Pa., died Saturday, May 3, 2008.

The family received friends Tuesday, May 6, 6 - 8 p.m., in the Church of the Transfiguration, Episcopal Church, 13646 Summit Avenue, Blue Ridge Summit, Pa., where a memorial service was conducted at 7 p.m. by her chapters of Order of Eastern Star.

Services were held Wednesday, May 7 at 11 a.m., in the church with the Rev. Berry Barton officiating. Burial followed in Fountaindale Union Cemetery, Liberty Township, Adams County, Pa.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Church of the Transfiguration, Episcopal Church, P.O. Box B, Blue Ridge Summit, PA 17214.

Arrangements are by Grove-Bowersox Funeral Home, Waynesboro.

## MOUNT ST. MARY'S UNIVERSITY

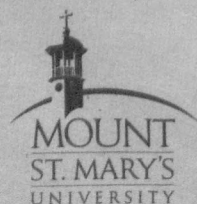
INFORMATION  
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for Working Adults  
June 3

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BEST BUDDIES MARYLAND AWARDS  
MOUNT MOST IMPROVED CHAPTER

By Mary Margaret Coughlin, '08



Best Buddies is a non-profit organization dedicated to enhancing the lives of people with intellectual disabilities by providing opportunities for one to one friendships and integrated employment. Founded in 1989 by Anthony Kennedy Shriver, it has grown from one chapter to more than 1,300 middle school, high school and college chapters across the country and internationally.

Best Buddies Maryland celebrated their accomplishments this year with their annual Best of Maryland Awards. The Mount's Chapter Director Blair Aiken was nominated for the "Best Chapter Buddy Director" and the university's Chapter of Best Buddies was nominated and awarded for "Most Improved Chapter."

A senior, Blair Aiken has been part of Best Buddies since her freshman year and became the Chapter Buddy Director in the spring of 2007. Aiken said, "Our buddies come from the ARC of Carroll County in Westminster and range from age 25-80 years old. On average we have approximately 20 buddies that sign up, but unfortunately, a very small number of Mount students participated in the past. However, this year we had 15 students join, compared to the 5 we had last year. We pair each college student with a buddy and they are expected to keep weekly contact with each other to build a strong one on one friendship."

Unlike other colleges, "the Mount is one of the few schools around that have a group event each month (sometimes more) with the buddies and the students," Aiken said. Some of these activities include arts and crafts, games, trips to the zoo, going to the movies, and attending Frederick Keys game.

Aiken plans to continue participating in Best Buddies after graduation. "I hope to become involved with Best Buddies Citizen, which allows people that are no longer in school to still be a buddy."

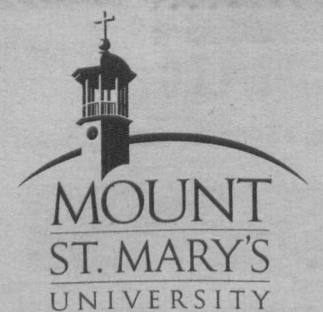
GIANT YARD SALE!  
RATS (Recycle all that stuff) Yard Sale!

Fri., May 16-Sat., May 17  
8 a.m.-1 p.m.  
Memorial Gym  
Furniture and household items  
students no longer need.

## ANNOUNCEMENT

This year's Reunion Weekend, June 7, 2008, in honor of the Mount's Bicentennial, fireworks will be "shot off" from the area near Route 15 between the Science Building and the Academic Center. Fireworks will begin around 11 p.m.

For more information, contact the Office of Communications at 301-447-5366.



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# Community Calendar

## EVENTS

**May 15 – Break the Cycle: Domestic Violence Silent Walk and Rally.** 7-9 p.m. Fairfield High School. Presented by Fairfield Senior Christina Gelwicks. All proceeds benefit Survivors Inc., Gettysburg.

**May 16 – Basket Bingo.** 5:30 p.m., games at 7. Woodsboro Fire Co. Complex, 10307 Coppermine Rd., Woodsboro. Tickets \$20 in advance, \$25 at door. Cash sales only at door. Information: (301) 845-8406.

**May 16, June 6, June 27 – Children's Miracle Network Friday Night Cruise.** Taneytown Food Lion. Show off your car or just talk shop. Food, 50/50, raffle, and games. Poker Run at 7 p.m. Proceeds benefit CMN-John Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore. Information: (410) 756-1443.

**May 16 – Frederick County Relay for Life Kids' Walk.** 7:30 p.m. Eventplex, Frederick Fairgrounds. Registration \$10, payable to American Cancer Society. Information: [www.FrederickRelay.com](http://www.FrederickRelay.com) or contact Beth Case, [casecrew@comcast.net](mailto:casecrew@comcast.net) or (301) 668-0454.

**May 16, 17 – Mount St. Mary's RATS (Recycle All That Stuff) Yard Sale.** 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Inside

Memorial Gym, entrance by Echo Field/Seminary. 100% of sale proceeds donated. Information: e-mail [Rats@msmary.edu](mailto:Rats@msmary.edu).

**May 17 – Men's Day Retreat.** 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. National Shrine Grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes, Mount St. Mary's University, Emmitsburg. Directed by Father Jack Lombardi. Retreat includes Rosary, Mass, confessions and talk.

**May 17 – Taneytown Presbyterian Church Spring Fling.** 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. 32 York Street, Taneytown. Bake and beverage sale; books; yard sale; door prize. Information: (717) 359-8054.

**May 17 – Day for Donations to Zambian Orphans.** 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Hope Mountain Foundation is seeking donations of used computers, children's clothing, teddy bears and school supplies for Zambian children orphaned by HIV/AIDS. Drop off goods at 224E North Church Street, Thurmont, a storefront near CVS and Peking Palace. Information: Thomas Cromwell, (202) 957-0865 or [thecromwell@aol.com](mailto:thecromwell@aol.com); [www.HopeFoundation.org](http://www.HopeFoundation.org).

**May 17-18 – "Double Day" Child-birth Education.** Frederick Memo-

rial Hospital, 400 W. 7<sup>th</sup> St., Frederick. Advance registration and payment required: \$110 per couple. Information: (240) 379-6000.

**May 17-18 – Healing Ceremony.** 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Bon Secours Spiritual Center, 1525 Marriottsville Rd., Marriottsville, MD 21104. Dr. Meredith Young-Sowers, spiritual teacher and author, will guide participants to experience the nature of their life plan through blending mind/body healing and spirituality. No charge; donation requested. Information: 1-800-847-4014, ext.106 or e-mail [pprice@stillpoint.org](mailto:pprice@stillpoint.org).

**May 18 – Bike-n-Hike.** St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Sabillasville. (301) 241-3287.

**May 19-24 – Emmitsburg Annual Carnival.** 6 p.m. Mother Seton School, 100 Creamery Road, Emmitsburg.

**May 21 – Signs of Spring Story-time.** 10 to 11:30 a.m. ThorpeWood. 2-5 years old. \$5. Stories, crafts and hands-on activities. Registration required: (301) 271-2823.

**May 23 to 26 – Girls' Fast Pitch Softball Tournament.** Pikesville, Md. B level fast pitch competition

in the 10, 12, 14, 16 and 18 & under age divisions; featuring round-robin competition. Open to all Mid-Atlantic club, recreation and school-affiliated teams having competed on a "B" level during the current season. Information: [www.usamateursports.com](http://www.usamateursports.com) or contact Skip or Alan (410) 363-8610.

**May 26 – 141<sup>st</sup> Memorial Day Parade and Ceremonies.** 2 p.m. Gettysburg. Sponsored by Gettysburg Joint Veterans Memorial Day Commission.

**May 28 – Assistance with several programs.** 9 a.m. to noon. Catocin Area CASS office, Emmitsburg Community Center, 300 S. Seton Ave. Help with DSS applications and re-certifications accepted (301) 600-2450. Energy assistance, food stamps, medical assistance, purchase of care, housing assistance. FCAA outreach; Todd Johnson (301) 600-1506, health care programs, homeless services, outreach and transportation, housing counseling & case management, weatherization & housing, rehabilitation services.

**May 30 – Golf Tournament.** Check in registration 8 a.m., shotgun start at 9 a.m. Mountain View Golf Course. Sponsored by the Carroll Valley Citizens Association. Fundraiser for the Carroll Valley Community Park July 4<sup>th</sup> picnic. \$65 per golfer. (4-person scramble). Information: Bob Forshy (717) 642-8989 or Mountain View Golf Course (717) 642-5848.

**May 30 – Morning Retreat.** National Shrine Grotto of Lourdes, Emmitsburg. Retreat with Fr. Phillip Chavez, SOLT, and celebration of Fr. Phillip's 15th anniversary to the priesthood. Free-will offering. Information: (717) 757-1773.

**May 30 to June 1 – Laity Retreat.** Mount St. Mary's Seminary, Emmitsburg. Directed by Fr. Jack Lombardi, Grotto Chaplain. "ABC=A Balanced Christian: living more serenely in today's world." All Christians welcome. Registration: call the Grotto Office (301) 447-5318 or e-mail [grotto@msmary.edu](mailto:grotto@msmary.edu).

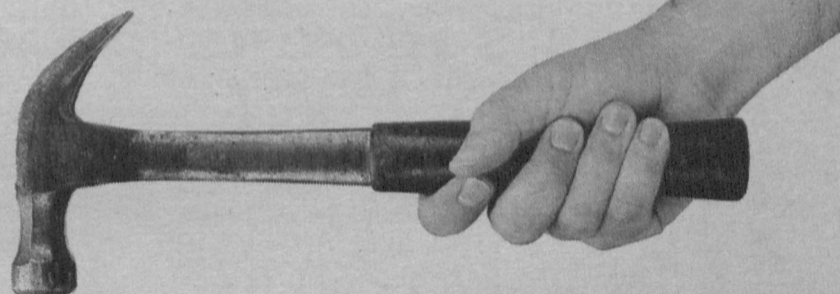
**May 31 – Yard Sale.** 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Graceham Moravian Church, 8231 A Rocky Ridge Rd. Thurmont. Sponsored by senior high youth.

**May 31 – BBQ Chicken Dinners.** 10:30 a.m. until sold out. Vigilant Hose Co., Emmitsburg. Fundraisers to pay for expansion of 100% volunteer fire company. Cost: \$7 per dinner.

**June 1 – CTC Bingo.** Doors open at noon; bingo starts at 2 p.m. Thurmont Activities Building, the carnival grounds. Tickets in advance, \$20; at the door, \$25. Basket sponsors needed. Send donations to Frederick County Career and Technology Center, 7922 Opossumtown Pike, Frederick, MD. 21702. Make checks payable to Frederick County Students Mechanical Trade Foundation. Information: Melissa Martin, 301-514-7330.

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# Arts @ Entertainment

CALENDAR

## CONCERTS

**May 17 - Shine the Light Christian Chorale Youth Group Concert.** 2 p.m. Somerford Place, 2100A Whittier Dr., Frederick. Information: (717) 642-9306.

**May 18 - Shine the Light Christian Chorale Youth Group Concert.** 3 p.m. Low-

er Marsh Creek Presbyterian Church, 1865 Knoxlyn Rd., Gettysburg, Pa. Information: (717) 642-9306.

## EVENTS

**May 24 - Fun Fest 2008.** 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tour backstage, watch rehearsals, participate in on-stage events; enjoy the arts of theatrical fencing, costuming, make-up and face painting, set design and construction, Shippensburg German Band and learning behind the scenes nooks & crannies. Free. Information: 1-888-805-7056 or (717) 352-2164.

**June 6 through July 8 - Juried Art Sale.** Collaboration of Gallery 30, 30 York Street, Gettysburg and the Adams County Art Council. Partial proceeds will benefit the Arts Council. Information: (717) 334-5006.

## STAGE

**May 31 to June 15 - "Sherlock Holmes: The Final Ad-**

**venture."** Totem Pole Playhouse, 9555 Golf Course Road, Fayetteville, Pa. A play by Stephen Dietz based on the 1899 play by William Gillette and Arthur Conan Doyle. A chilling mystery featuring the world's greatest detective, the King of Bohemia, a notorious photograph, a kidnapping and Holmes' great nemesis, Professor Moriarty. Mystery and adventure for the entire family. Post-show discussion: Wednesday evening, June 4. Information and performance times: 1-888-805-7056 or (717) 352-2164.

**To June 28 - "Sleeping Beauty"** Way Off Broadway, Children's Theater, 5 Willowdale Drive, Frederick. This classic musical tale tells the story of the Princess who is enchanted by an evil fairy, pricks her finger on a spindle, falling into a deep sleep, only to be rescued years later by the Prince, with a bit of magical help. (301) 662-6600, [www.wayoffbroadway.com](http://www.wayoffbroadway.com).

## Auditions for Thurmont Thespians summer show

THURMONT, Md. - The Thurmont Thespians will have auditions for "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat" on Monday, May 19, Tuesday May 20 and Wednesday, May 21 at 6 p.m. at St. John's Lutheran Church in Thurmont. This is the 11th annual summer teen musical open to teens ages 12 to 19. The Thurmont Thespians use everyone who auditions, promising them an on-stage role and teaches all phases of theatre in this summer workshop. Performance dates will be July 17-20 and 24-27.

The Biblical saga of Joseph and his coat of many colors comes to life in this musical parable. Joseph, his father's favorite son, is a boy blessed with prophetic dreams. When he is sold into slavery by his jealous brothers and taken to Egypt, Joseph endures a series of adventures in which his spirit and humanity are continually challenged. Potiphar pur-

chases him, but thwarting advances from Potiphar's wife lands him in jail. When news of Joseph's gift to interpret dreams reaches the Pharaoh (wryly and riotously depicted as Elvis), Joseph is well on his way to becoming second in command. Eventually his brothers, having suffered greatly, unknowingly find themselves groveling at the feet of the brother they betrayed but no longer recognize. After testing their integrity, Joseph reveals himself leading to a heartfelt reconciliation of the sons of Israel. Set to a cornucopia of musical styles, from country-western and calypso to bubble-gum pop and rock 'n' roll, this Old Testament tale emerges both timely and timeless.

Call Beth Royer Watson (301) 416-0864 with inquiries or questions.

St. John's Lutheran Church is located at 15 Church Street, Thurmont, next door to the fire hall.

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## Have a ball at Fun Fest, held at the Totem Pole Playhouse

CHAMBERSBURG, Pa. - Summer is approaching and Totem Pole Playhouse is back with a full roster of activities. Bring the whole family to the annual Fun Fest, free for children and adults, on Saturday, May 24 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., rain or shine.

Or, come as early as 8 a.m. for the yard sale. Items come from the Totem Pole attic and beyond. Follow the signs at the traffic signal, at the intersection of U.S. Route 30 and PA 233 South, midway between Gettysburg and Chambersburg in Caledonia State Park.

Among the scheduled events are backstage tours hosted by Mister Ed of Mister Ed's Elephant Museum & Candy Outlet fame, including rehearsals for our May 31 opening night performance of "Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure," children's story theatre led by Ian Jacobs & the Drama Club of Chambersburg and others.

Displays of costuming, set design and the art of stage make-up include face painting. Russ Smith & Maxx Anker of Chambersburg Magic Club will perform Magic Shows at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. Children's theatre crafts in the form of sock puppets, theatrical masks and funky hats will be available all day under the children's tent on the

east lawn. Kids can even build their own small tee pee and totem pole.

Cumberland Valley Indian authorities, Connie and Gene Niswander, will show arrowheads and artifacts found along the same South Mountain ridge where Totem Pole Playhouse is located. Children will be able to make bead bracelets and leather headbands plus learn the art of bow shooting.

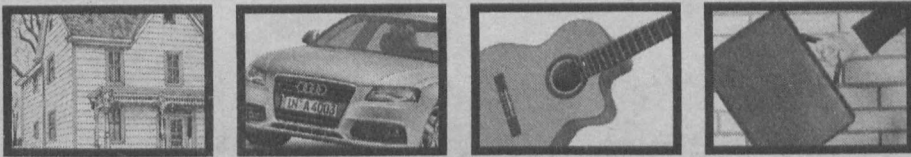
The Shippensburg Blaskapelle German Band will play from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the

west lawn. The music will set your toes a tapping and your hands clapping. You might even want to sing along. The music is the traditional folk music presented at German festivals.

All day long there will be an all-American picnic with burgers and hotdogs right off the grill. There will also be chili, chicken corn soup and more. A bake sale tent will hold delicious baked goods donated by friends of the theatre. Come early for the best selection, because everything goes fast.



- PHOTO COURTESY OF TOTEM POLE PLAYHOUSE  
 Children and their parents enjoy one of the many free activities at the Totem Pole Playhouse in 2007. The 2008 event will be on Saturday, May 24 from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.



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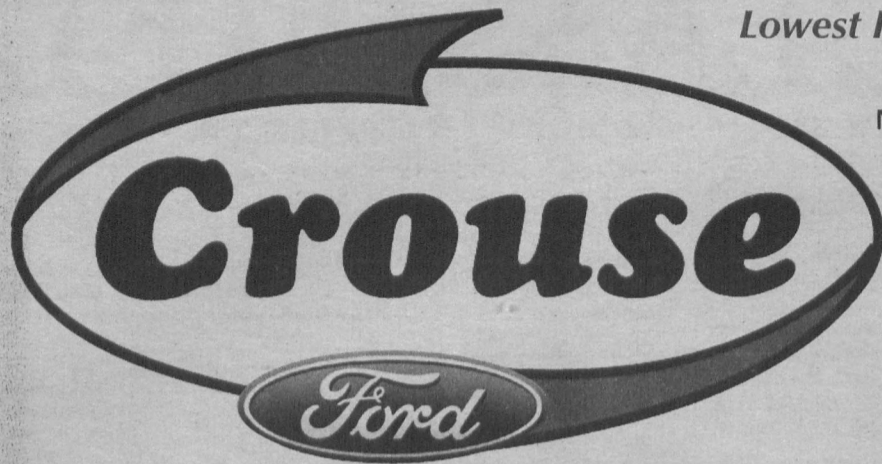
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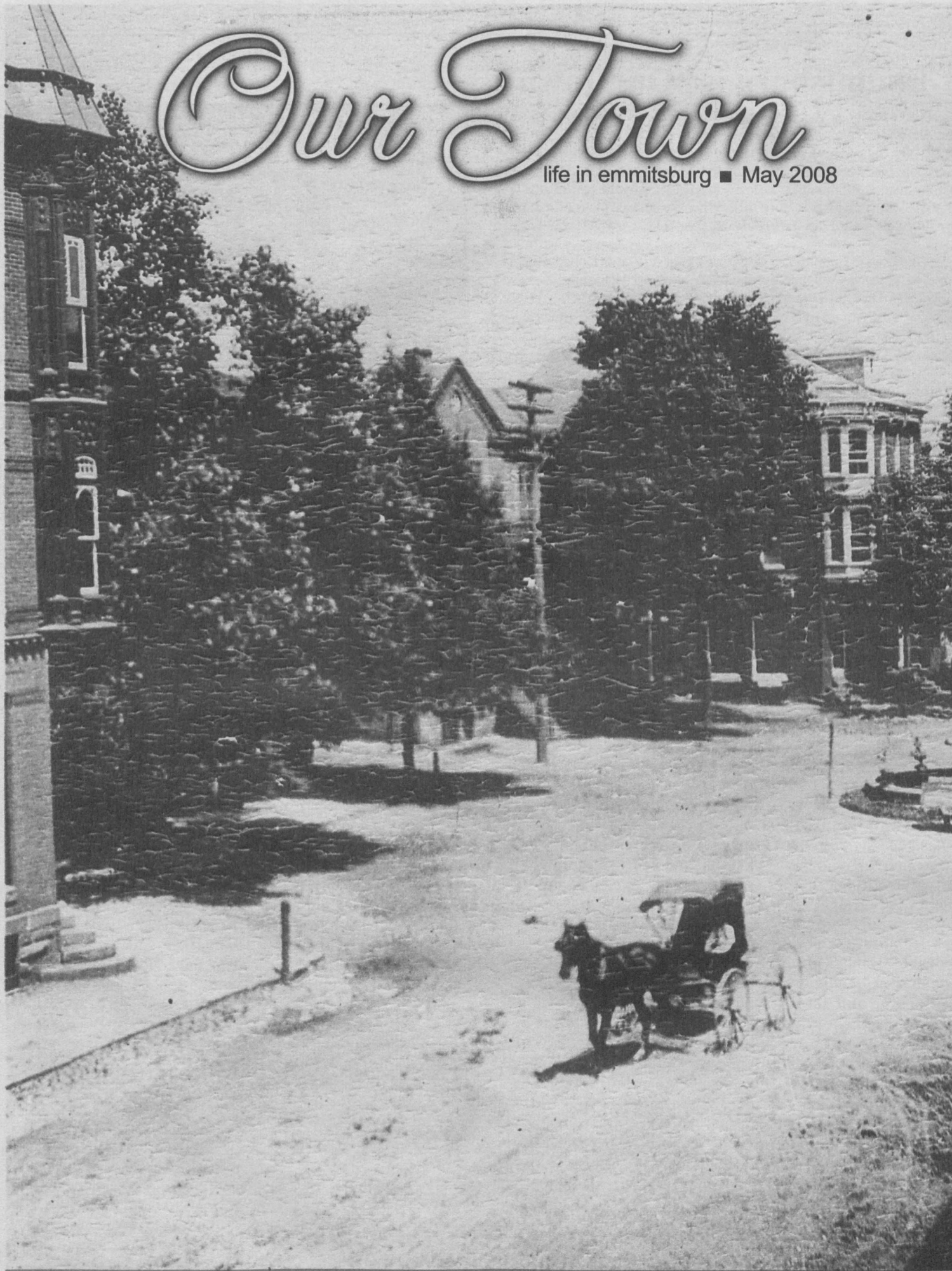
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# Our Town

life in emmitsburg ■ May 2008



get a clean start with your house work

page 5

letters to emmitsburg

page 6

chs scholars

page 7

## Welcome to 'Robertsburg'

■ By Mike Hillman

One of the fun parts about being a history nut is occasionally you get a chance to play detective and of all the detective work into Emmitsburg's rich history, none has been more challenging than uncovering the mystery behind *The Contralto*, a love story set in 1906 Emmitsburg.

Published in 1912, *The Contralto* floated on the border of generations of Emmitsburg history enthusiasts. When mention was made of it, it was quickly put down as a "trashy, poorly written, 5&10-cent store romance novel." When a copy of the book came up on E-Bay, I bought it for what a trashy, 5&10-cent store romance novel would cost: \$4. It was the best \$4 I ever spent.

I opened the book and began reading it at 11 p.m. and it was well past 4 a.m. before I turned the last page. Far from being a trashy love story, *The Contralto* provides insight into life in Emmitsburg at the turn of the last century.

While the book is technically fiction, it correctly depicts the life and attitudes of Emmitsburg residents at the time, especially the ill feelings held by some towards Mount St. Mary's and the Daughters of Charity

■ see 'Robertsburg' on page 3

## Our Town

life in emmitsburg

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Cover: Horse and buggy travel through Emmitsburg at the turn of the 20th Century. Photo courtesy of the Greater Emmitsburg Area Historical Society.

100  
years ago  
May 1908

### MEMORIES AND PLEASANT ASSOCIATIONS OF THE TOWN PUMP

A correspondent from the West in the recent communication to The Chronicle, deplored the passing away of the town pump, but having served its day and generation it has gone and in its place we have the fountain a much more sightly and imposing structure. But a great many associations and memories cling to the old pump. Some one has said it was an old custom to dig a well in the square when a town was laid out.

Many families living near the square, obtained their water from the town pump, as the water was more limited than now when we have four fine mountain water in our kitchens and yards.

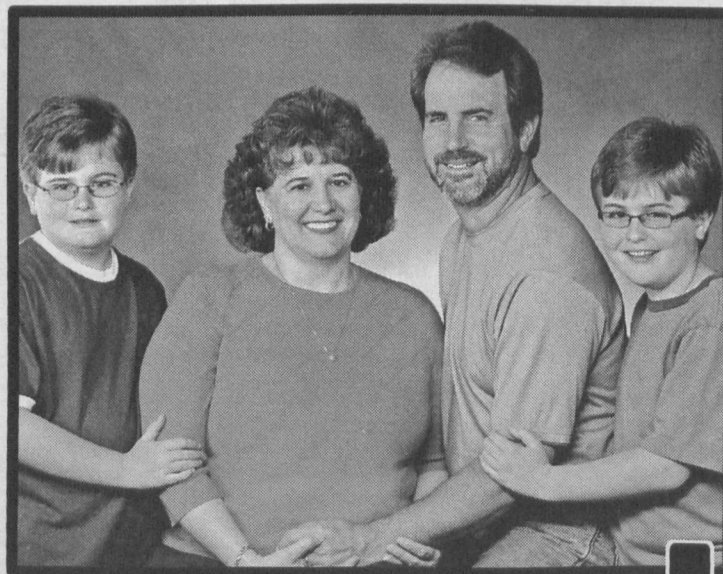
## Why Emmitsburg is "Our Town"

Five years ago, Robin and I decided that it was time for us to find somewhere that we could call HOME so we started traveling around Frederick County trying to find just the right place. With my parents living in Hanover, Pa. and Robin's parents in Frederick, we started looking somewhere in the middle of both sets of grandparents. With both of us coming from smaller communities, we knew that was exactly the type of area we wanted our sons to grow up in and call HOME. When we decided to visit Emmitsburg we knew we found the perfect place we could raise our boys, a town we could call our own.

We have only been in Emmitsburg for five years but we feel as though we have been here forever. When we walk into The Palms for breakfast we are always greeted with a friendly hello. The Ott House reminds us of the show Cheers, where everyone knows your name. Everywhere we turn we find a friendly smile and a warm "Hey, how are you doing?" These are just some of the many things that make living in Emmitsburg a great experience for our family.

Our children, Nate and Nick, are receiving the benefits of living in a tight-knit community inside and outside the classroom. Every now and then Robin and I get the honor of standing back and watching our boys walk down the hallways at school receiving hugs or high fives from their teachers of earlier years. It is a comforting feeling witnessing all the love and attention our children (yours and mine) receive as a result of going to school in a smaller community. Our teachers show up at the softball games and baseball games to cheer for our children—this effortless act by our teachers means so much to our children. This is just another reason we are proud to call Emmitsburg our HOME.

■ Jeff Little



Robin and Jeff Little with their sons Nate and Nick.

# Looking Back on Emmitsburg

This column offers a retrospective view of Emmitsburg through the eyes of *The Emmitsburg Chronicle*, which first appeared on June 14, 1879, published by Samuel Motter. In 1909 the paper became known as *The Weekly Chronicle*. It continued regular publication, allowing for a 5-year hiatus during World War II, until Feb. 9, 1977.

No one knows the exact date when the well was excavated; it has been suggested the well was first dug and the town built around it, but this cannot be, for the original settlers got water from a spring, long ago filled up, in the cellar of Mr. L.M. Motter's log house, on the street leading to the R.R. Station, this L.M. Motter being the father of the present Mr. Motter, one of our oldest citizens. The well was not a large one being only 25 feet deep and 4 feet in diameter, yet it was never known to go dry.

Before railroads traversed the country six horse teams carried the produce from Pittsburgh to Baltimore. On their return they brought merchandise to the merchants along their route. The town pump furnished water to all these teams. Many and beast alike found refreshment from the excellent water it brought to the surface. The old pump was the rallying ground for most of the

scenes of youthful gatherings of political and other meetings, of town fires and jollification and generally for the exercise of the fire company of the town.

The boys had an old mill gudgeon into which they drilled a hole, filling it with powder; this they ran into the pump where it exploded with a noise of a cannon, splitting the pump and cracking the windows in the neighborhood.

In the great fire in 1863 in our town, the town pump furnished the water supply with which they fought, unsuccessfully, the flames.

It has been said that any one who drank from the town pump would never lose his desire to return to his old home, and this accounts for the yearly pilgrimages to dear old Emmitsburg of many of those who were born here or who ever lived in its vicinity. Perhaps it may be something else that brings him back, but it is attributed to the "Lure of

the Pump."

The pump is gone, but the well remains, sealed and covered by the great fountain erected over it which sends its cooling spray high in the air. But the water that it sends forth is not the "real thing" to the boy or girl who once drank from the Old Street Pump.

50  
years ago  
May 1958

### LEGION AUXILIARY NOMINATES

The monthly meeting of the Francis X. Elder Post 121 American Legion Auxiliary was held Tuesday evening in the post home with 21 members present. President, Ann Topper, presided.

Membership chairman, Madeline Harner, announced

to date there are 121 members in the auxiliary.

Nominations of officers for the coming year were held with the following results: President, Ann Shorb, Kathleen A. Shorb and Charlotte Sanders; First Vice President, Jane Hess and Margaret Shorb; Second Vice President, Corrine Seiss and Mary Theresa Hollinger; Secretary, Nancy Danner and Ethel Baumgardner; Corresponding Secretary, Jean Sprankle and Diane Small; Treasurer, Madeline Harner and Virginia Sanders; Chaplain, Carrie Fuss and Margaret Brown; Historian, Carmen Topper; Sgt-At-Arms, Pat Sprankle and Beatrice Umbel; Executive Committee, Melva Hardman and Loretta Hardman.

Refreshment committee for next month is Pat Sprankle, Charlotte Sanders and Melva Hardman.

After the meeting, the ladies joined the men of the post for refreshments.

Continued from page one

## 'Robertsburg'

stemming from their poor treatment of residents.

The Nov. 20, 1912 *Fredrick News* reported, "The Contralto, a new book which has just been published and in which the scene is laid at Emmitsburg. A love story is given in which a number of well-known characters about Emmitsburg are interwoven. The names are disguised in part, but not so much that a person familiar with the names in that section cannot recognize them. The book is by Roger M. Carew, who spent the summer of 1910 in Emmitsburg. It is said Carew's real name is Charles M. Maloy."

While the book was based on Emmitsburg and its residents, the author modified the names slightly, such as changing Isaac Annan to Isaac Hannan. It is fairly easy to identify the real residents. The same can't be said for identifying the author and the main protagonist in the story, Harry the professor.

The story begins as Harry, AKA the Professor, steps down from the railroad car and surveys "Robertsburg" (Emmitsburg) where he had been sent to "dry out" at St. Joseph's Parish's rectory. When it becomes known that he is also a ball player, he is asked to help raise a town team ... and that's when his troubles with the Mount begin. When the Mount president hears the town team is going to play on a Sunday, he attempts to forbid it, as he does the offer for the town team to play the college team.

When the Professor attempts to put on a theatrical production, the Mount president again attempts to have his way with the town residents and forbids it. The Professor refuses to back down and joins the Robertsburg Bulletin (Emmitsburg Chronicle) staff where he uses the power of the press to raise questions

about the mistreatment of residents by the two Catholic institutions.

In one chapter, the parish priest who is overseeing the Professor while he is drying out, warns him that his predecessor had also tried to stand up to the Daughters of Charity and Mount and had been "removed" for standing up for his flock. But the Professor presses on, using his position as a reporter to make his case for the emancipation of town residents.

One argument that the book is an actual representation of life in Emmitsburg is that stores referenced in the *Robertsburg Bulletin* appear in *Emmitsburg Chronicles* published between 1906 and 1908.

Also, the author is Roger M. Carew, whom the *Fredrick News* said was Charles M. Maloy. In 1906, the parish priest at St. Joseph's was none other than ... you guessed it, Father Maloy.

In the Nov. 11, 1906 *Emmitsburg Chronicle*, Father Maloy is credited for putting on a theatrical production that the Mount president was against. Interestingly enough, while the book mentions many of the key members of Emmitsburg society, there is no mention of Father Maloy. Not mentioning his own name would make sense if he were writing the book from a third-person perspective.

Father Maloy would have been in the perfect position to write first-hand on events involving the love affair of Marion Tyson and John Mathews, which was used as the book's plot, not to mention the vivid details of the goings on in the rectory.

Being a priest at St. Joseph's, Father Maloy would have known about Father Carey, his predecessor, and felt comfortable about using a version of his name,

## 200 years of history brought to life through film



The Vigilant Hose Company was on campus at the Daughters of Charity early on April 30, but not to put out a fire. Tower #6, operated by several local fire fighters, lifted videographer Wendy Wilmowski, Wayfarer Entertainment, so she could shoot aerial views of the campus for the DVD that will be released in 2009, the bicentennial of the beginning of Mother Seton's work in Emmitsburg. An associate for the Daughters of Charity, Tina Lamont, portrayed Mother Seton.

Photo courtesy of the Daughters of Charity

Carew, as his pen name.

That said, if Father Maloy were the author, his attack on the Mount and the Daughters of Charity for their treatment of residents takes on that much more importance. For here was the priest from the local Catholic church taking

on the large Catholic institutions in his community in support of his flock. Now that took some guts.

Almost banished to the dustbin of history, *The Contralto* is now available on-line at [www.emmitsburg.net](http://www.emmitsburg.net). The historical society has changed

the names of characters back to their real names and added photos to help bring the characters and places mentioned in the book back to life. We hope you enjoy this interesting and intriguing glimpse of Emmitsburg in 1906.

*Chicken Bar-b-que*

### The Mayor's Community Bar-b-que Competition

August 2, Emmitsburg Community Park

Local individuals, civic organizations and businesses are encouraged to participate.

Grillers are needed to participate in this friendly competition.

For more information or to compete in this competition contact Mayor Hoover at (301) 447-2140. All proceeds will benefit the Mayors Scholarship Fund. Everyone is welcome to compete.

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# 'That's the way things were'

By Ruth O. Richards

This is a story about Barbara. Well, not exactly about Barbara. It's a story about Emmitsburg, but not exactly about Emmitsburg either. It's really about all of us, everybody. But before I can tell this story, I must go back long ago, so many years that I scarcely know just where to begin.

About the 15th century Portuguese explorers discovered money could be made in trafficking black people from Africa. Other countries followed suit and soon most of Western Europe was transporting these people to the New World to be sold as slaves.

Barbara's paternal great, great grandfather was descended from a Dutch baron from Holland. When the baron died, his widow and sons came to America and settled in Connecticut. One of these sons left Connecticut for Santa Cruz (St. Croix) in the Dutch West Indies. This son married a black woman, and a child of this interracial marriage was Barbara's grandfather. Just how and when her grandfather got to Emmitsburg is unknown. He did get here and this is where Barbara's story begins.

After the Civil War when

it became legal for blacks to be educated, Maryland and 19 other southern states established segregated schools for black children. Frederick had schools for blacks; Emmitsburg had only one public school, for whites only. St. Euphemia's parochial school of St. Joseph's Church, run by the Daughters of Charity, set aside one room in this school for teaching black children.

In 1940, Barbara came from her home in Washington, D.C. to live with her paternal grandmother in Emmitsburg. Her grandmother enrolled her in St. Euphemia's School where one sister was assigned to teach the black children, all of whom were taught in one room.

All of the children of Barbara's grandmother had attended this school. Sister Beata, the teacher, was beloved by these 20 or so children. When Barbara was in school, she was one of only three students, herself and cousins, Kenny and Joe. These three were taught writing, reading, arithmetic and religion. Father Rogers was the priest at St. Joseph's. Sister Josephine was the principal of the school and Sister Veronica was the teacher for the black children.

There were no privileges for the black children with the excep-

tion of being schooled. They were not allowed to play either in the school or on the playground with the white children. There was not an indoor bathroom for them. Their "bathroom" was an outhouse in the back of the school. Neither were they allowed to use the drinking fountain. The black children had a separate playground and a separate entrance to the school. (We all can surely remember seeing pictures during the 60s where drinking fountains and restrooms were clearly marked "Whites only.") The black children were Catholic, and were instructed in the Catholic faith and when they went to church, they were limited to the back pews.

Barbara remembers that on Aug. 5, 1945, the day World War II ended, bells rang all over Emmitsburg in celebration of victory. The old movie house, the Gem, was close to the fire hall and the white children on their way to the movies lined up for a turn at ringing the fire hall bell. Barbara and her cousins stood by hoping against hope that they, too, might have a tug in celebrating this victory.

No one offered them the rope even though four members of her family were serving in the Armed Forces. Sad.

Barbara had completed eight grades in four years at St. Euphemia's, but when at the age of 10 she returned to D.C., she was placed back in the fifth grade, the appropriate grade for her age.

After high school, she wanted to enter the convent of the Daughters of Charity and was refused. The convent was open to white women only. After several other attempts, she was accepted by the Franciscan Sisters of Atonement at Graymoor in Harrison, N. Y. She was with the Franciscans for 15 years, six of which she spent in Utah and four in Brazil.

Some years after leaving the Dominicans, Barbara returned to Emmitsburg and was secretary to Presidents Wickenheiser and Houston. She is now involved in volunteer work with the Daughters

of Charity at the Seton Center Outreach Program.

Barbara is a friend of mine and I have spoken with her several times about her experiences in Emmitsburg when she was young and at St. Euphemia's School. I asked her how she felt about the treatment she and the other black children had received. Her answer was, "That's the way things were."

I end here with a recent quote from Barbara: "I have no regrets about my early school experiences. The sisters, Veronica and Josephine, were very kind to their charges. In spite of the segregation, the Sisters instilled in my heart a deep love for my faith and the Church, qualities that have helped me all through my life."

Please note: In the 1940s when Sister Veronica died, the Daughters of Charity made the decision to integrate the black students rather than assigning another Sister for them.

## Lights, Camera, Emmitsburg



Robert A. Rosensteel Sr. / The Dispatch

NBC25 traveled to Emmitsburg for the second stop on its Town Proud Tour. Various segments on the news program highlighted local businesses like the Ott House and Mount St. Mary's. NBC25 anchors and reporters interviewed locals including Joseph Reckley, Mike Hillman and Mayor James Hoover (being interviewed above).

## Community Show plans being made

Plans are under way for the 52nd Annual Thurmont and Emmitsburg Community Show. The show will be held at Catoctin High School on Sept. 5-7.

On Friday night, after the community and civic flag ceremony, the show committee will honor the 200th anniversary of Mount Saint Mary's University, located in Emmitsburg.

Also on Friday night the 2008-2009 Catoctin FFA Chapter Ambassador will be announced. The baked goods auction will start at 8:30 p.m. and the grand champion cake, pie and bread will be sold at 9 p.m.

The committee decided that all premiums awarded will be the same as in 2007, except for the baked goods department, where premiums for cakes, pies and breads will be increased. Some minor additions and deletions will be made in some of the departments.

On Saturday, the Catoctin FFA Alumni Beef, Sheep and Swine show will be 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. The annual Pet Show will begin at 10:30 a.m. in front of the high school. The petting zoo and pony rides will also be held on Saturday and Sunday.

John Kinnaird of Thurmont will feature his displays of old pictures of the area and the Thurmont Library will again hold its annual book sale. Commercial exhibits will be featured in the old gymnasium as well as a bee and honey display and an antique button display by the Mackley family.

The Thurmont Grange will serve their turkey and ham dinner from 3 to 7 p.m. on Saturday night.

Plans for the Saturday evening program have not yet been finalized.

The 34th annual Catoctin FFA Alumni Beef, Sheep and Swine sale will begin at 7 p.m. on Saturday night.

Activities begin on Sunday, Sept. 7 at 9:30 a.m. with the Goat Show, followed by the Dairy Show and Decorated Animal Contest.

At noon, the Catoctin FFA Alumni will be selling barbecued chicken. The horseshoe pitching contest will begin at 1 p.m., which will be chaired by Dale and Donnie Kaas. The log-sawing contest will begin at 1 p.m.

Also on Sunday afternoon, the Linda Elower Studio of Dance will be performing at 1:30 p.m.

The Barnyard Olympics for children will be held on Sunday afternoon at 1:30 p.m. The event will be expanded because of increased participation by children and premiums will be awarded. A martial arts demonstration will be at 2 p.m.

If you would like to advertise in our show booklet, please contact Rodman Myers at (301) 271-2104 to obtain advertising information. The community show booklets will be available in local Thurmont, Emmitsburg and surrounding area businesses in late July or early August.

New residents of the community are urged to enter and be a part of the Community Show, the largest in the State of Maryland.

The Community Show is sponsored by the Thurmont Grange, Catoctin FFA Chapter, Catoctin FFA Alumni and the Maryland State Agricultural Fair Board.

## Get a helping hand with your cleaning



Libby Briggs

Anyone who walks into our home or office understands I'm not a neat freak. That is an understatement. Organizational skills require time and energy. To this point in my life, I've been unwilling to allocate either to cleaning or organizing.

Mom actually gave me a book called "How to Get Organized." I noted the highlights – how you dust three times a week and vacuum twice, etc. Not that I don't like everything

spotless, dust free and polished – I love it – I just don't seem to have it in me to get these things accomplished. I was all but frantic with the pending family reunion at our house – my family loves me, but there was no way I wanted them to see exactly how bad my housekeeping was.

This required a serious approach. Jotting the number down from the van advertisement, I called, taking a deep breath as Theresa Ward, the owner, answered. Much to my delight there was no "cluck, cluck" about me asking for something with such short notice, but a most-professional response, "We want to meet your needs." Theresa went so far as to indicate they tackle just about anything. I thought to myself, they haven't seen my house! Scheduling was easy, amazingly the same week.

Meeting Theresa and her assistants at the house was akin

to watching the honeybees hard at work. In they came, each carrying professional equipment and cleaning materials. I left them with a real prayer they wouldn't walk out in disgust or suffocate from the dog hair. Walking in that night to a delightful fragrance that only Theresa and her crew seem to be able to accomplish, the kitchen was absolutely spotless, window sills, countertops, floor, the range looked entirely too clean to use ever again. The hardwood floors were beautifully cleaned, the bathrooms sparkled, the furniture, handrails, blinds were all dust free as was the ceiling trim, under the beds and chests. It was an answer to prayer!

Since then Theresa and crew have come in with their special machine to clean the area rug in the dining room, that had the appearance the Union and Confederate Armies had camped on it, managing to



Olga Llactas Llano, manager of Elizabeth's Helping Cleaning Servants, helps keep one of her client's house spotless.

Photos by Stephanie Long / The Dispatch

make it look new. They have tackled the windows which is no easy feat since they are the 1850s era. Somehow, I think the previous owners of the house are smiling again. This beautiful gem has found someone to make it shine,

thanks to Theresa Ward and her wonderful Elizabeth's Helping Cleaning Servants.

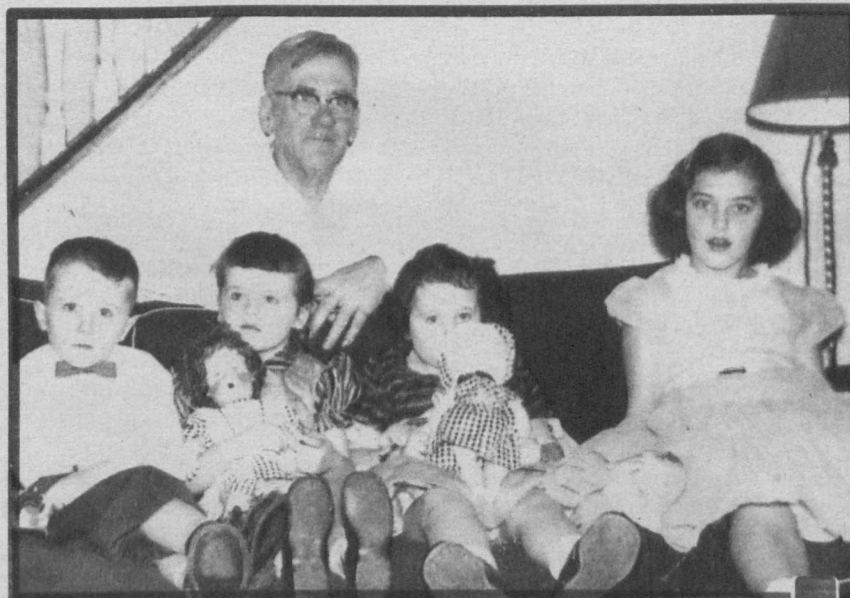
Theresa tells me by visiting the Web site [www.cleaningservants.com](http://www.cleaningservants.com) you can enter a drawing for a free cleaning or you

can call Theresa at (301) 447-6465 or (240) 446-2752 for an estimate or complete list of services they provide. One thing I know – you will meet a wonderful friend with a professional eye to detail, sure to please.

## The life of Robert (Bob) Mark Burdner

By Robert Hankey

It was a life that almost never was and a family tree that almost ended on Feb. 5, 1885. That was the date of the Emmitsburg Blizzard during which three men on the Emmitsburg Railroad almost perished. One of those men was Bob Burdner's father, Theodore Burdner, the train's fireman.



Robert Hankey, his sister Diane, grandfather Robert Hankey, cousin Patty Shryock and cousin Bonnie Shryock during a family gathering.

Bob was born in 1887 into a devout Catholic family and received his education through the local Catholic schools. Bob provided community improvements as a steam boiler installer from 1912 through 1913. He worked with Luther Kugler and others on various jobs in the area including: St. Joseph Catholic Church, Slagle Hotel, the Catholic school house and Donald Forbs Motters station.

Bob married and had seven children. Sterling and Patrick died before the age of six from common childhood diseases and a daughter died shortly after birth. His only surviving son (deceased at 78), Joseph, married and had a son, Joseph Jr., who lived his entire life on Long Island after returning home after World War II. His oldest daughter Margaret married John Shryock of Taneytown. When she died at age 86, she left two daughters, Bonnie and Patty. His youngest daughter Roberta married Marlin Hankey of Gettysburg. Before she died at 58, she left two sons, Robert and Donald, and a daughter, Diane. His middle daughter, Delores, is the only surviving child still living in Emmitsburg.

Bob Burdner owned and operated an automotive garage from the west end of Main Street. According to his son Joseph, this business did not last, primarily based on his father not having bought a lift to en-

able him to have remained competitive with other local garages. Bob then moved to other efforts to include work on the construction of Camp David followed by finishing his working career, nearly to his death in 1965, with the then St. Joseph High School.

Bob was a good citizen having devoted 25+ years to the Knights of Columbus where he led that organization as the Grand Knight. Bob also was a member of the Emmitsburg Fire Company when that company's means of responding to fires was contingent upon the ability of the firefighters to run as fast as heck to get the pumps to the site of the fire.

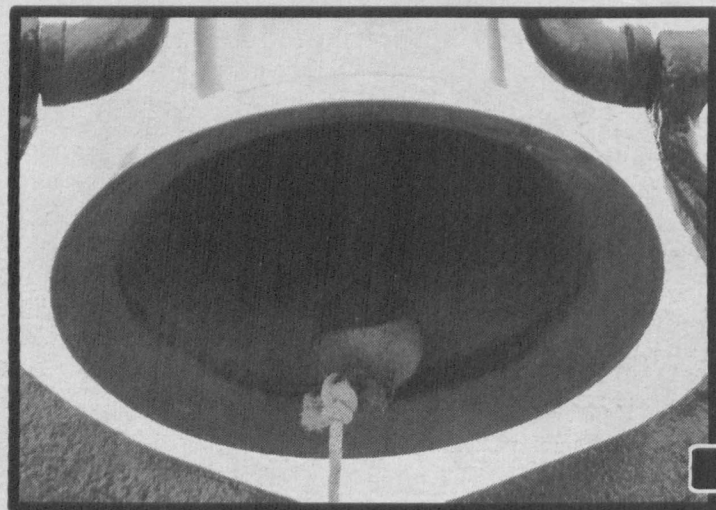
Bob was an accomplished brewer. It was said that young men from miles around all found their way to Bob's house to get some of his homemade beer. His son-in-law, Marty, stated that it was the best beer that he ever tasted. One of his grandsons recalled how a lot of priests while on "retreat" in town would find

their way to his house to sample his wine, noting that the older priests would allow him to fill their cups to the brim while the younger priests would start raising their glasses shortly after he began to try to fill them. His grandchildren also remember crushing grapes in a large wooden basket for their grandfather. His grandson wishes that his grandfather had taught him how to make the beer.

Back then, like many other men, Bob installed the electrical wiring and plumbing in his home. During these times, people were self-sufficient, hard working folks. A grandson remembers his grandfather stopping at St. Joseph Church every day on his way home from work to say some prayers. Never a lengthy prayer session, his grandson once asked what he was praying for; and the response was that his grandfather was giving thanks for having been able to work hard that day and for the well being of his family.

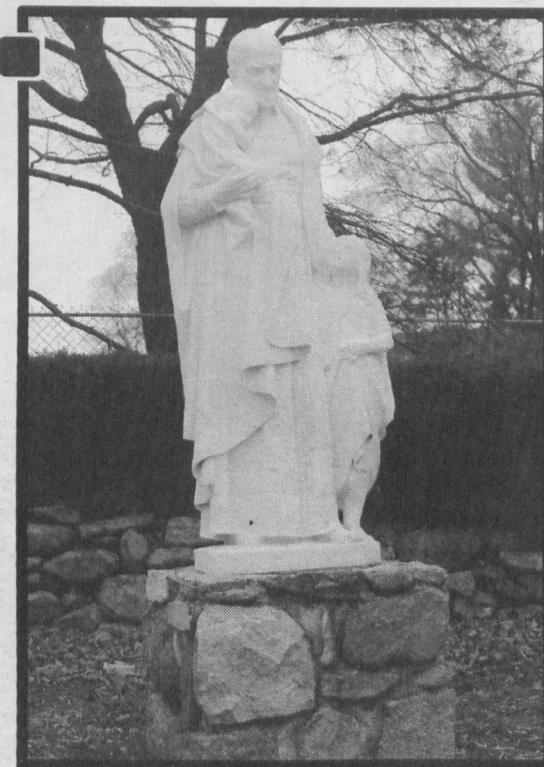
Photo courtesy of the Hankey Family

## Where am I?



Do you know where and what this picture shows? If you do, e-mail your guess along with your name and phone number to [editor@thedispatch.us](mailto:editor@thedispatch.us). One of the correct guessers will receive a \$10 gift certificate to Main Street Sweets. All guesses must be received by June 2. The winner will be drawn from the correct entries.

This picture stumped some who confused it with other statues, but it is the statue of St. Vincent de Paul and the children behind the St. Joseph's Cemetery on the grounds of the National Shrine of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton. Jessica Cupp's name was selected from among those people who guessed correctly. She received a certificate for dinner for two at the Carriage House Inn.



## What I was

## Letters to Emmitsburg, Part I



Mary Jo Botham

I never gave much thought to the fine art of letter writing until several months ago when Dora Connolly from the Antique Folly came into the office and mentioned the letters she had acquired. She graciously loaned them to me and from the get go, I was entranced. Today with communications being so quick, it is hard to imagine the thrill that someone in the early 1900's received when opening up the mailbox! Letters were, like this collection, treasured, stored away only to be taken out and read over and over again. Thank you Dora for allowing me to share these letters with the fine folks of Emmitsburg.

Fairfield, PA  
May 19, 1907

Dear Friend,

I suppose you think I am not in the land of the living or have forgotten your favor of the 9th. Well the truth is I have been kept so busy since that time helping to run things on the farm that I had rarely leisure moments enough to write you a return, nevertheless I feel quite confident that you'll pardon me of this. I don't expect to get down before you come up for decoration. I would like for you to come up on Saturday afternoon of June the 1st, That will give us ample time to prepare for the next days decoration. You may ride Zona (unless you have a smaller bay horse) and I'll try and get a horse to match, bring your red, white and blue ribbons along and we'll try and arrange them to match. I would like to attend the Strawberry Festival but at the time specified will be unable to attend. I am glad you had a fine time at Baltimore City. I suppose you saw all the latest fashions there. I would like to hear from you between this and the time you come up for decoration. Tell me whether you

can come up on June 1st. Well it is getting dark and I'll have to draw this letter to a conclusion. Wishing you sweet dreams and heavenly inspirations, I'll say goodbye Marie till we meet on June 1<sup>st</sup>.

Sincerely yours,  
J. Harry Pecher

Can you imagine how far Fairfield must have seemed from Emmitsburg that it was necessary to write letters? Trips away from farm work were well thought out and planned in advance. The above letter mentions a trip to Baltimore.... must have been quite the trip to the big city!

I'd like to know more about the Strawberry Festival for future articles....If anyone has any info regarding that please let me know.

Emmitsburg, MD  
Oct 31st 1907

Miss Marie T Stouter  
Emmitsburg, MD

My dear Miss Stouter,

I received your favor of 29th visit and I am doing all I can

to have your estate closed up. George is not entitled to wages now. Nor can he claim wages for the month of October. I will be out to see you and your mother either tomorrow or Saturday. I am trying hard to get things in shape. What George can state his first account with the Orphans Court on Monday next but it takes a lot of writing and counting to get things in proper shape.

Sincerely,  
Edward H Rowe

I believe this was written by the attorney handling the estate for the death of her father. Hard to believe that an attorney made home visits, isn't it?

From Our Monastery of  
Frederick

Sept. 8, 1908

My Dear Marie,

The present of lovely peaches came to us last Saturday and mother wishes me to thank you for her and the sisters who appreciate so much your kind thought of them. Today being Blessed Mother's birthday called

for an extra dessert. The sister who has charge of the dispensary told me she couldn't bring anything nicer than your fruit. So we had Emmitsburg peaches for dinner and all your friends were saying "God bless Marie"!

I hope your dear mother is feeling better and that you and your brothers are well again. Sister \_\_\_\_\_ Ella has money for the lamps but I suppose you have heard this from sister.

Again thanking you for your kind remembrance with love from all the sisters.

I remain,  
Sr Cord? Jean

Sincerely your friend  
Sister Mary Joseph of the  
visitation B.V.M

I understand this monastery was quite poor in the early part of the century so a gift of fresh fruit must have been a real treat!

And so this concludes my first segment of "Letters to Emmitsburg." I hope that you enjoy them as much as I have. And if you have any information or photos of this family, I'd certainly enjoy hearing about them or seeing them.

## Catoctin High School Third Quarter Honor Roll

1<sup>st</sup> Honors  
(Straight A's)9<sup>th</sup> Grade

Alvarez, Roberto  
Beall, Brittany  
Bewley, Travis  
Bodnar, Tyler  
Dorsey, Jacqueline  
Dower, Megan  
Farr, Carly  
Faust, Elizabeth  
Giffin, John  
Gros, Joseph  
Heaton, Nicholas  
Helt, Jennifer  
Ledger, Shelby  
Lenhart, Kayla  
Manning, Elise  
Marlow, Rachel  
Merico, Caitlin  
Rader, Rebecca  
Saylor, Shaleigh  
Seiss, Todd  
Shook, Adam  
Smith, Ashley  
Smith, Nelson  
Trevorrow, Alexanne  
Tylicki, Benjamin  
Weddle, Brandi  
Wivell, Jennifer  
Wolf, Christopher

10<sup>th</sup> Grade

Ammenheuser, Chad  
Black, Alayna  
Candela, Rachel  
Delauter, Amy  
Despeaux, Katie  
Eyler, Amy  
Eyler, Matthew  
Forrence, Alexander  
Hoffman, Jenna  
Hogan, Jessica  
Kinna, Bridgette  
Metheny, Hannah  
Paguirigan, Jessica  
Robinson, Ashley  
Smaldone, Maria  
Stone, Leah  
Yeager, Emily

11<sup>th</sup> Grade

Albright, Justin  
Butler, Tiffany  
Fauconnet, Maria  
Harris, Constance  
Keilholtz, Katelyn  
Lambert, Jessica  
Late, Kylie  
Lawyer, David  
Legore, Jamie  
Roman, Kourtney  
Triplett, Kevin  
Tumulty, Paul  
Wildasin, Josef  
Wobbleton, Amanda

12<sup>th</sup> Grade

Abel, Rebecca  
Baer, Rachel  
Beall, Steven  
Beard, Deidre  
Becker, Sarah  
Benchoff, Ashley  
Boyer, Michelle  
Brady, Jacqueline  
Buckley, Hannah  
Eyler, Stephanie  
Ford, Kathleen  
Frech, Olivia  
Georgoff, Stephanie  
Hagelin, Julie  
Hays, Kaitlyn

Heidel, Megan  
Kime, Taylor  
Kokoski, Heather  
Lawyer, Mary  
Lipscomb, Jessica  
McFerren, Shirley  
Miller, Chelsey  
Myers, Taylor  
O'Donnell, Matthew  
Parker, Ceth  
Portier, Joel  
Price, Phillip  
Rickerd, Michael  
Ridenour, Justin  
Ridenour, Samantha  
Rissler, Candace  
Robinson, Mary  
Routzahn, Lane  
Shank, Justin  
Stackhouse, Tara  
Stoner, Kimberly  
Thompson, Laura  
Thompson, Matthew  
Topper, Kassondra  
Whetzel, Amanda  
Wilt, Ryan

2<sup>nd</sup> Honors

(3.0+ GPA, no Ds or Fs)

9<sup>th</sup> Grade

Atzrott, Derric  
Baer, Cady  
Baker, Miranda  
Benjamin, Alison  
Bomberger, Courtney  
Bostian, Joshua  
Brehm, Ashlea  
Britt, Shauna  
Burke, Patrick  
Burrier, Jc  
Carter, Austin  
Cole, Morgan  
Ellis, Garrett  
Ellison, Michael  
Fogle, Christina  
Frankel, Catherine  
Ganley, Cheyenne  
Gelwicks, Chelsea  
Georgoff, Meghan  
Gouker, Diana  
Grimes, Miranda  
Grissom, Katelyn  
Grumblatt, Elaina  
Heinzl, Brent  
Hemler, Molly  
Herbert, Brandon  
Hertel, Brandon  
Hobbs, Eric  
Hoff, Danielle  
Hollinger, Nicole  
Howard, Luke  
Hughes, Gary  
Humerick, Brandon  
Hurt, Joshua  
James, Joan  
Kauffman, Bradley  
Keller, Logan  
Kirsch, Anthony  
Krietz, Zachary  
Krstanovic, Nickolas  
Lambert, Laura  
Lind, Matthew  
Lindahl, Graham  
Little, Carrie  
Little, Sarah  
Martinez, Justine  
Maxey, Kellam  
Messner, Angela  
Metal, Kelley  
Michael, Danielle  
Miller, Ashley  
Miller, Taylor  
Miller, Tyson  
Nowaczyk, Craig

Odom, Elizabeth  
Olson, Priscilla  
O'Neill, Joseph  
Overzat, Bethany  
Parker, Cynthia  
Pittinger, Ryan  
Potts, Jessica  
Reaver, Sean  
Reese, Jessica  
Rhodes, Alicia  
Rockwood, Timothy  
Roelkey, Michael  
Routzahn, Landon  
Sanders, Ashleigh  
Seltzer, Natasha  
Shaffer, Robert  
Snedegar, Thomas  
Stanley, Robert  
Stansbury, Lauren  
Stouter, Brandon  
Swanson, Melissa  
Thom, Nicole  
Thomas, Brittany  
Tomasini, Justin  
Torrey, Caitlin  
Trapane, Nicholas  
Tressler, Cody  
Triplett, Bradey  
Wachter, Sarah  
Waldron, Joshua  
Wiles, Ernest  
Winchester, Elizabeth  
Wivell, Cody

10<sup>th</sup> Grade

Adamovicz, Mason  
Alvarez, Joseph  
Athey, Amanda  
Barbour, Paul  
Baseley, Sara  
Beard, Shayna  
Behrendt, Evan  
Biser, Eric  
Bishop, Olivia  
Bittner, Robert  
Boller, Jessica  
Borek, Chelsea  
Bradshaw, Misti  
Brandenburg, Cody  
Buhrman, Joshua  
Clarke, Jessica  
Cole, Ashley  
Dabbs, Joseph  
Deweese, Devan  
Eastridge, Alyssa  
Eidel, Hallie  
Erfurdt, Kelly  
Everhart, Stephanie  
Fenner, Rachel  
Free, Jessica  
Freeze, Mackenzie  
Fuller, Caitlyn  
Gautney, Matthew  
Gilliam, Cody  
Hurt, Breanna  
Hanvey, Jozefa  
Hertel, David  
Hildebrand, April  
Jacks, Mackenzie  
Jones, Tyler  
Kline, Amanda  
Knott, Chad  
Kruhm, Joshua  
Lam, Thanh  
Lambert, Kayte  
Larsen, Mark  
Lee, Jessica  
Little, Jessica  
Llewellyn, Alexander  
Llewellyn, Rachael  
Long, Carrie  
Maly, Kolby  
March, Amanda  
Marine, Max  
May, Michael

Mcguire, Erin  
Medve, Nicole  
Meunier, Lynly  
Michalik, Michael  
Miller, Dale  
Miller, Garrett  
Moore, Karly  
Myers, Braden  
Nichols, Chloe  
Norris, Sarah  
Ohlwiler, Marc  
Peomroy, Megan  
Poole, Lauren  
Rand-Campbell, Amanda  
Rebert, James  
Rinehart, Ian  
Roberts, Gerald  
Russo, Ashley  
Sanders, Ashley  
Scheider, Ethan  
Scites, Aleesha  
Shaffer, Katrina  
Sheppard, Samantha  
Shields, Carolyn  
Smith, Samantha  
Stouter, Kaitlin  
Stouter, Rachael  
Study, Justine  
Sweeney, Kathleen  
Sweeney, Kelly  
Szabados, Derek  
Tremaine, Aidan  
Trey, Dustin  
Weaver, Taylor  
Whetzel, Megan  
Wiles, Donald  
Wivell, Levi  
Wobbleton, Daniel  
Wright, Katie

11<sup>th</sup> Grade

Alvarez Chaves, Diana  
Baird, Dillon  
Barber, Amanda  
Barker, Nicole  
Beall, Ashley  
Biser, Jennifer  
Bodnar, Robert  
Brashears, Laura  
Brotherton, Joshua  
Brown, Angela  
Brown, Ashley  
Bull, Stacy  
Burgess, Evan  
Burke, Katelyn  
Chilson, Sean  
Clark, Jennifer  
Cochran, Samantha  
Cook, Tabitha  
Crabill, Wayne  
Crawford, Rachael  
Crone, Aaron  
Crum, Karen  
Delauter, Emily  
Derbyshire, Myra  
Dove, Brett  
Englar, Todd  
Ewing, Graham  
Fahnestock, Jared  
Farmer-long, Victoria  
Fields, Jacob  
Fields, Morgan  
Ford, Joshua  
Free, Tara  
Gammie, Christine  
Gartrell, Sara  
Geisinger, Breana  
Glancey, Christine  
Grider, Eleanor  
Grimm, Jared  
Harrington, Sarah  
Healy, Vincent  
Henderson, Miranda  
Hoke, Michael  
Humerick, Amber

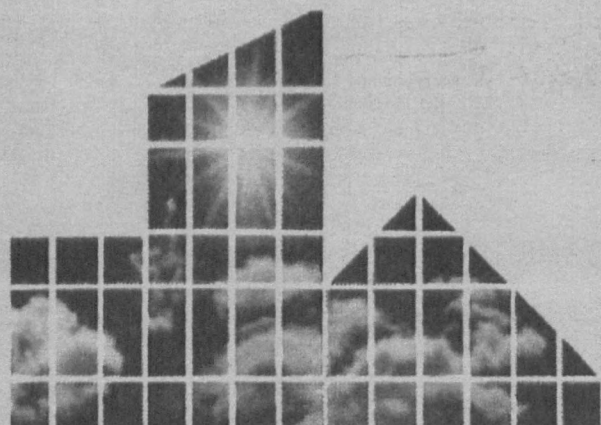
Hurley, Derrick  
Javor, John  
Jurkowski, Timothy  
Kelly, Lauren  
Krouse, Kimberly  
Lawson, Megan  
Lebosky, Amber  
Lenhart, Nathan  
Lewis, Michael  
Lindahl, Grant  
Linker, Andrew  
Little, Joshua  
Little, Shawn  
Martin, Rebecca  
Mcfarland, Scott  
Mcgrady, James  
Mcgrath, Stephanie  
Mcguire, Bryce  
Mcnaire, Chad  
Miller, Amanda  
Miller, Hannah  
Miller, Tyler  
Moore, Kersti  
Morgan, Amanda  
Myers, Kaylee  
Myers, Robert  
Nearing, Katharine  
Neumann, Joshua  
Nietner, Anna  
O'Brien, Chelsey  
Olson, Megan  
Orndorff, Jaime  
Ott, Aaron  
Ott, Sarah  
Poole, Michaela  
Putman, Kevin  
Puvell, Lindsay  
Reckley, Jessica  
Rej, Thomas  
Rice, Taylor  
Rich, Jacob  
Richards, Rebecca  
Ricketts, Kyle  
Rohrback, Ashley  
Roop, Mehrle  
Rowe, Nicole  
Russell, Kyle  
Sanders, Crystal  
Savage, Linda  
Scalese, Jonathan  
Schildt, Christopher  
Schneider, Nicholas  
Seiss, Katie  
Shafer, Ashley  
Sier, Robert  
Smith, Brooke  
Smith, Bryan  
Snyder, Emily  
Steiner, Kristy  
Stone, Miriah  
Thompson, Dustin  
Torgerson, Nicholas  
Tregoning, Jacob  
Triplett, Brett  
Troast, Sean  
Urian, Megan  
Valentine, Lacey  
Watson, John  
Weagley, Ariel  
Wetzel, Jessica  
Wivell, Charity  
Wivell, Kelsey  
Wolfe, Michael  
Yoak, Tyler  
Zickefoose, Taylor

12<sup>th</sup> Grade

Althoff, Mitchell  
Baseley, Brett  
Benjamin, Hilliary  
Blake, Hilary  
Borek, Matthew  
Bowers, Emily  
Bushman, John  
Cartee, Megan

Chmelik, Brittany  
Cogan, Jonathan  
Cool, Elyssa  
Cool, Randy  
Cool, Richard  
Cordell, Adam  
Covell, David  
Delauter, Karen  
Dellinger, Paul  
Doyle, Darrel  
Eaves, Andrew  
Edleblute, Rebecca  
Ehman, Kaitlyn  
Engelberg, Rachel  
Fauconnet, Paul  
Fink, Becca  
Fogle, Devan  
Fogle, Stephanie  
Forrest, Nicholas  
Franklin, Stephanie  
Goodman, Ryan  
Gosnell, Jennifer  
Gros, Alexandra  
Guariglia, Michael  
Hahn Humerick, Brittny  
Haller, Heather  
Hamrick, Eric  
Harwood, Amanda  
Hashemzadeh-irani, Margaret  
Hayes, Sara  
Hemler, Emily  
Hogan, Erin  
Jacobsen, Dana  
Jose, Marvin  
Kidd, Dusty  
Landry, Brandon  
Linton, Evan  
Lipscomb, Jennifer  
Little, Zachary  
Manahan, Kassandra  
Maring, Sara  
Miller, Amanda  
Miller, Amanda  
Miller, Daniel  
Miller, Stephanie  
Mullenex, Courtney  
Murray, Rachel  
Murrell, Ryan  
Ohler, Matthew  
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