

# The Emmitsburg Regional

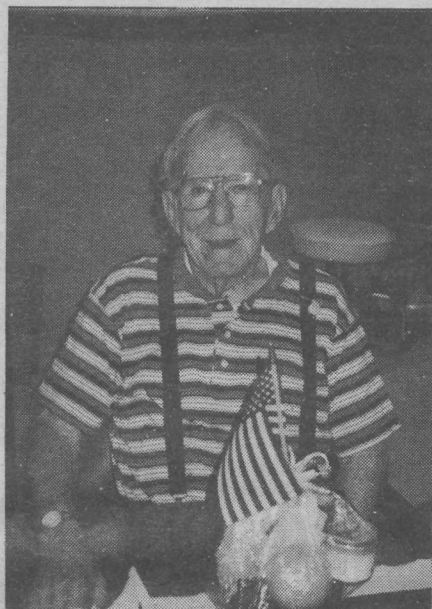
## DISPATCH

Vol. IV, No.12

Gaining Strength From One Another

December 1996

### Streets and Transportation Committee Presses for Solution to Intersection Hazards



Austin Joy, a resident of St. Catherine's Nursing Center, was one of the veterans remembered on Veterans Day by Francis X. Elder Post 121. See story on page 11.

State Highway Administration representative John Concannon met with the Streets and Transportation Committee November 20 to discuss the results of the recent SHA traffic survey and steps to a solution to the perceived hazards at the Silo Hill Road and Route 140 intersection.

According to Concannon, traffic volume through the intersection only partially meets the SHA mandated criteria for the installation of a traffic signal. The criteria require a minimum volume of traffic on the main street as well as a minimum volume on the side streets. At the present time there is not enough traffic on Silo Hill Road to justify a traffic signal. "We realize that the Silo Hill area is growing and that traffic will increase, and we will continue to monitor the situation," Concannon said.

Citing the 100% non-compliance with existing speed limits in the area Concannon recommended a three-pronged program to reduce hazardous conditions until a more permanent solution can be devised. He recommended a uniform speed limit through the town, consistent enforcement, and a campaign to make the public more aware of and responsible toward the hazardous intersection.

"We will continue to evaluate the situation at the intersection and try to approach it from another angle," Concannon said. "We can consider the possibility of a round-about which will not only slow down traffic speed but smooth out traffic flow and reduce turning delay times."

The committee voted 3-2 to recommend to the town commissioners a uniform speed limit of 30 miles per hour through the town and extending this speed limit beyond the US 15 overpass. Deputy Jeff Bartlett said, "This will make enforcement easier since there will not be two speed limits on the same piece of real estate."

"This step is a move in the right direction to the solution of our ultimate concerns about the intersection," said committee chairman Brian Brotherton.

At the Dec. 2nd Town Council Meeting the commissioners rejected the recommendation for a uniform speed limit of 30 mph.

### Up-County Family Center Celebrates With Open House

"It's a reality, and we are here," Mayor Carr told the large audience at the Up-County Family Center open house on November 22. The center was celebrating its new home on West Lincoln Avenue and its ninth year of service to the Emmitsburg community. "Many have benefited from Up-County being in Emmitsburg, and we are very fortunate to have them here," the mayor said.

"It took many people to make this happen," said director Laurie Sheffield-James, and we appreciate everything."

Mark Hoke, president of the county commissioners, remarked that "The people in this town saw a need and figured out how to do it with the least amount of government help. We appreciate what you did."

"There was no better model of people coming together and making things

happen," said Ellen Eckhart, director of Family Service - Catholic Charities.

The center, whose focus is on the family unit, offers programs in parenting skills and development of children from infancy through 3 years. Participants can also learn about cooking and nutrition in the center's spacious new kitchen, as well as attend classes for GEDs, computer instruction, and career development. Childbirth classes and alternative high school education for pregnant teens are also available.

With a staff of 14, only four of them full-time, the center serves about 55 families a week. Since their move into the new building, according to Ms. Sheffield-James, there has been an increase in the number of people attending the programs. The center's programs and services are free and transportation is available if needed. For more information call 447-2810.



### Santa Scheduled for Emmitsburg

According to a news release from the Elf's North Pole News Agency, the cooperative and coordinated work of the Emmitsburg Lions Club, the Emmitsburg Ambulance Company, the VFW, and the American Legion, along with other volunteer workers, have ensured the local presence of the Jolly Old Elf for this coming holiday season.

Santa's Shanty, located at the Ambulance Company building, will be the site of Santa's traditional Christmas quizzing of children in the area. It is expected that he will be attempting to find out who has been good or naughty or nice. This information will be shared with parents. Put these dates on your calendar: Thursday and Friday,

December 19 and 20, from 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

On Saturday, December 21, *Emmitsburg Santa Promotions* will warm up the crowd with a Christmas Party for children from 10:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon. Local Girl Scouts will assist in the making of the ornaments. The crowd will be wowed by a clown and a magic show. Hot dogs and hot chocolate will be served.

All children who visit Santa on Saturday from 12 noon until 2:00 p.m. will be given free photographs of them sitting on Santa's lap. (This photo will be accepted by the IRS as proof that all the loot the child receives was as a gift and therefore tax deductible.)

*Merry Christmas!*



## Letters To The Editor

### Check Noise Ordinance

Citizens of Emmitsburg - you need to go to the town office and read a copy of the proposed new noise ordinance (No. 96-11) because if it is passed, living in Emmitsburg could become more complicated and troublesome.

The ordinance, which is an amendment to the Emmitsburg Municipal Code entitled "Public Peace, Morals, and Welfare," will restrict things you usually do around the house. The operation of stereos, bass amplifiers, radios, televisions, phonographs, and musical instruments in such a manner as to be plainly heard at a distance of 50 feet from the building or vehicle in which they are located, shall be evidence of a violation. This is also true for yelling, shouting, hooting, or singing on the public streets or from private property. Will children be able to play games like hide-and-go-seek in their own yard at night with this kind of ordinance?

There are very few homes 50 feet apart in Emmitsburg and I feel the new ordinance will cause lots of unnecessary and crank complaints to the Town

Office. Everybody will be calling for everything.

The taverns in town will be affected by this ordinance because of their amplified music. And what about people with hearing impairments who need to play their radios or TVs at a higher level? The fine for violation of this ordinance, as determined by a law enforcement officer, shall not exceed \$1,000 or 30 days in jail.

We need to be reasonable. Please come to the public hearing at the Town Office on Jan. 6th, 1997, at 7:00 p.m. and let the Town Council know how you feel about this ordinance.

What we need is a simple noise ordinance - no loud noises after 10 p.m. until 7 a.m. - and to be on good terms with all our neighbors the rest of the time. That's all this quiet town needs.

CLIFFORD SWEENEY

*Editor's Note: Ord. 96-11 was withdrawn at the Town Meeting held Dec. 2. See story on page 3.*

### An Open Letter to the Citizens of the Emmitsburg Community

This Emmitsburg Community Center presently houses some 20-odd organizations of critical importance to the well-being of this municipality.

A few years ago, great distress was inflicted upon the integrity of this building when the Emmitsburg Ambulance Company appealed to the County Commissioners for land on which to build their headquarters. Apparently, this Company had by-passed the first step in the application which was the approval from the local Emmitsburg Municipality. However, most every one in the town acknowledged that an ambulance building was absolutely necessary. And, after much anguishing over the loss of landscape, and special trees, approval was given wholeheartedly.

Now, only a few years later, and supposedly under pressure from higher authorities, more land is being requested. To date, there has been no *public* discussion called to obtain input about this important issue.

Several options have been suggested in various small groups, all of whom support the company with good will and intent. They just wish to be heard in general discourse.

Rumor has it that matters of compromise are difficult to obtain because the Ambulance company and the Vigilant

Hose Company are inimical, although many memberships are interchangeable.

Our local leadership seems unable to reconcile the proper procedures for meeting this crisis.

If the ambulance company has to expand so soon after their first building, what will be their next demand? Expansion will impinge upon the serious traffic problems that presently exist.

Can we not have concerted community meetings about this critical issue?

The county commissioners have been most sympathetic and cooperative with our problems. They are to be commended.

Can we not have "open covenants openly arrived at" in the final analysis? That is the way democracy works, otherwise, it is dictatorship. and have we not seen the disasters of that form of government in our own time?

Finally, in the words of the great leader, Aeneas, let us pledge, "...viam inveniimus aut faciemus." May the outcome be worthy of our best reasoning and judgment.

JOAN BOYLE  
Emmitsburg

### Thank You

I would like to take the time and say "Thank You" to Bo and Jean Cadle and all of your staff at the *Dispatch*. Several months ago you took time out of your Sunday, and did an article on our local club (the Indian Lookout Conservation Club). We want to thank you for the article you did on us. We enjoyed having you come and interview us at one of our shooting matches. The club has been in operation for 49 years, and no one has ever come to us and did what you did. Everyone that I have talked to enjoys getting and reading your paper. All of you should be proud of the job you are doing. Keep up the good work!

GIL EIKER  
Emmitsburg

### Christmas Greetings

Dear Mam Jean,

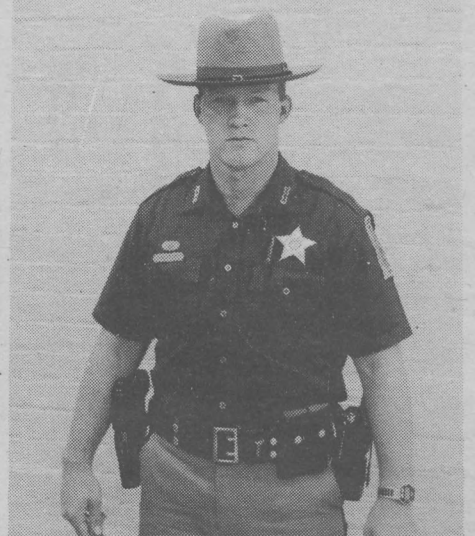
We are wishing you and your community a Merry Christmas and a very Happy and Prosperous New Year!

We never forget your loving kindness and generosity to us. You are in our thoughts and prayers.

BETH DELOS SANTOS  
Philippines

*Ed. Note. Several individuals and organizations contributed items to Mrs. Delos Santos and her children who live in a leper colony in the Philippines.*

### PROCLAMATION PRESENTED TO DEPUTY FIRST CLASS DAVID HUNTER NOVEMBER 4



Whereas, the Town Council first employed the Frederick County Sheriff's Department during the 1992/1993 fiscal year in order to provide law enforcement services for the Town of Emmitsburg; and

Whereas, DFC David (Dave) Hunter was assigned to Emmitsburg, and served from November 27, 1993, to October 11, 1996; and

Whereas, as an extension of his law enforcement responsibilities and for the betterment of our community, Dave took on the additional challenge of instituting a police officer bicycle patrol; and

Whereas, Dave was instrumental in the push to provide truck inspection certification, which has greatly alleviated many of our safety and noise concerns; and

Whereas, DFC Hunter provided the Town with nearly three years of devoted and superior service and responded effectively and sensitively to the needs of our residents;

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, that the Town council, on behalf of the citizens of Emmitsburg, wish to recognize DFC David Hunter for his dedication, support, and outstanding service which have made Emmitsburg a better place to live.

Signed this 7th day of October, 1996 on behalf of the Town Council and the citizens of Emmitsburg.

## Holiday Greetings

from

the Emmitsburg Town Council

Mayor Carr

Commissioner Gingell, Commissioner Copenhaver,

Commissioner Benvengi, Commissioner Sweeney

Town Manager Yvette Semler





## Residents Give Commissioners an Earful at Town Meeting

"I think it's ludicrous" and "You're opening a can of worms" were some of the phrases heard at Monday night's Town Meeting during the spirited discussion concerning the proposed Noise Ordinance 96-11.

Richard Oster, who lives in Emmitt Gardens said he thought the wording of the ordinance was too vague. "Too much is left to the interpretation of one person," he said. "Who is going to say what is reasonable and unreasonable noise? I think it [the ordinance] needs a lot of work."

George Lenz also felt the ordinance was not specific enough. He said he thought an ordinance should be a yes or no statement and not something left up to the discretion of a deputy. "There is no specification of noise level in the ordinance, and I think it is ludicrous," he said.

Susie Glass echoed their feelings and urged the commissioners to "go over the ordinance again."

Phil Topper, Jr., a lawyer, told the council he admired the town for what they were trying to do, but that he felt the ordinance, as written, was unconstitutional and would be unenforceable. "There are already laws on the books and procedures to lodge complaints about noise," he said, "and the Maryland Department of the Environment has tests to determine unreasonable noise."

Charlene Little, who lives on East Main Street across the alley from the Gourmet Grill, asked the commissioners how much noise is allowed. She told them how the loud music from live bands playing at the Pasta Factory kept their family awake until 2:00 a.m. "Our windows were vibrating," she said, "and our children couldn't get to sleep. Most of the time the sound of the music is not that bad, but when it is loud, how much are we suppose to tolerate?"

Doug Orner said he was for a noise ordinance because "It's not right for me to have to listen to music from across the street."

Commissioner Sweeney said he was also for a noise ordinance, but not this one.

Following the discussion Mayor Carr said he felt the mandate was clear and recommended the council withdraw the ordinance. The commissioners voted 3-0 in favor of withdrawing it. Commissioner Gingell abstained. He told the council he was sorry he ever brought up the idea of a noise ordinance which he hoped would help curtail truck and vehicle noise. "We started 5 years ago and we haven't gotten anywhere with it. Truck and vehicle noise is not even mentioned in this latest ordinance."



The readers (l. to r) Seated: Mary Hoke, Bea Keilholtz. Standing: Rose Keepers, Kate Warthen, Elizabeth Prongas, Nancy Bowerman, Betty Kengla, Cathy Link. Not shown, Linda Knox. A Dispatch Photo

The Emmitsburg Branch of the Frederick County Public Library system celebrated its increase in service and new hours in an Open House held Nov. 23. As part of the festivities, a one-act play by Tim Kelly, *The Second Best Bed*, directed by Joan Boyle, was presented by volunteer readers.

Director of FCPL Denise Davis said, "It is inspiring to see the enthusiasm in the community."

Sheila Chatlos underlined the growth and service of the library by giving a brief history. "We started in 1906 with 50 books and were open 3 - 6 p.m. only on Saturdays. We have made progress," Mrs. Chatlos said. "Today we have 10,000 books."

## COUNTRY CHRISTMAS



F  
A  
R  
E

ARTS, CRAFTS  
REFRESHMENTS  
ENTERTAINMENT

Fri., Dec. 6, 6:30 P.M. - 8:30 P.M.  
Sat. Dec. 7, 10:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.  
Sun Dec. 8, 10:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.

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## Commentary:

Merry Christmas to us all!

A celebration and the way in which it is celebrated must really be considered together to understand just how it affects us on both a practical and a deeper personal level.

Christmas is complex. It is one history-changing event that has flowed through nearly every culture on the planet and taken as many forms as there are countries. The northern European influence of Santa, reindeer, and decorated trees has become pretty much the accepted picture for much of the world, but even the mass commercial packaging of these ideas hasn't standardized the world's experience of them. Climate and cultural differences creep in, and what Christmas means to you may well not be what it means to me. Not because my beliefs differ, but because my experiences of them do.

For the past ten years, I have lived Christmas in New Zealand. My childhood memories are of a warm, pine-and-cookie-scented house, a magic lighted tree that drove away the cold gray outdoors and drew me into a feeling of mystery and expectation, people



coming together, red-nosed from the cold, to find light, warmth, and egg-nog in a festive atmosphere. Carols of snow and Santa had as rightful a place as those celebrating Jesus' birth. I can't separate that image of Christmas from that time in my life; they are forever tangled.

What is Christmas to me now? It is still a reverent, joyful celebration of the birth of Christ. But summer is not the season for mystery or magic. The house open to the breezes does not retain the smell of pines, and the sun stays so late that the children are nearly asleep before the tree emerges with its colored light to claim its special aura. Carols of winter make no sense at all. The kids learn "The Twelve Days of Christmas" as "A Pukeko in a Punga Tree," and sing a beautiful Maori carol that celebrates not the birth of Christ, but their first news of Him, brought by missionaries one day on a long open beach.

A long open beach, with the wind blowing through the red-flowered pohutakawa trees. That could be a symbol for New Zealand Christmas. The soul is not finding comfort from the dark of winter; it is in full expansion of the energy of summer. The tree-lights are a stubborn hold-over, but the real

light of the season here is a full, strong sun. Christmas is camping, the kids home from school and college, sailing, swimming. Christmas is the house filled with roses and garden flowers, visiting with friends by the side of the pool, getting sunburned. Christmas Day is packing up a picnic and going off to the beach, with all that is implied.

Have I lost Christmas, or have I gained another? The gem has many facets, and they all reflect the same light. Long-ago event and present circumstance meld to form the experience. From egg-nog to iced ginger-beer, from ham and puddings to cold salads and strawberries, from cold toes to bare feet, I am thankful for the chance to celebrate this time, to honour love, mystery, and joy in all the ways I can. Let the world be filled with music of every kind! Merry Christmas to us all!

*Editor's note:*

Nena Cadle writes from New Zealand. I remember the first word she ever wrote with her crayons. I couldn't read it, but she knew and explained it to me. Now, I'm as proud as I was then.

100 Years Ago, "In this place"  
from *The Emmitsburg Chronicle*

### Young Ladies Fined

Dec. 11, 1896 - Four young lady bicyclers were fined this week for violating an ordinance of the town which relates to riding of bicycles within the corporate limits of Emmitsburg. The law prohibits the riding of bicycles on the pavements or sidewalks, and it also requires riders to ring a bell within a certain distance of each crossing. Both sections of the law were violated by the following young ladies who paid the penalty imposed by the law: Miss Helen Higbee, for riding on the pavement; Miss Hallie Motter, Miss Martha Simonton and Miss Constance Kerschner, for not ringing a bell at the crossings. Keep off the pavements, and be sure to ring a bell at every crossing. It is reported that a young Mr. Stouter met with the same fate as the lady riders. Who will be next on the list?

### How It Looks To "A Man Up A Tree"

Dec. 18, 1896 - Mr. Editor: In your issue of the 11th inst., under the caption of "Young Ladies Fined," you have been pleased to give to the public, within the scope of your circulation, far and near, the interesting and important intelligence, that certain ordinances of your ancient and peaceful borough have been "violated." Seemingly not content with this awe inspiring announcement, you add, for the consternation and warning, of the category of law breakers, "who will be next on the list?" Then you cap the climax of the importance of your proclamation, by giving, in bold relief, the names of the "young ladies," as having been violators of law and order.

Now, from my position, "up a tree," or as a looker on, these festive, frolicking and unfortunate "young ladies," are in no enviable position before your many readers, and, by you are made to typify a class who are not usually held in the estimation, these "young ladies" may possibly be entitled to. But who knows: you have not expressed a single palliating or mitigating circumstance, if there be any, in connection with the infraction. What, then, is the legitimate conclusion to be drawn from your parade of the bare facts and full names? Why, that you as a principal conservator of the public peace and morals - the Editor in chief

*Please see 100 Years on page 5*

## The Emmitsburg Regional Dispatch

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Advertising and copy deadline  
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Neither the publisher nor the editor will be liable for misinformation, misprinting, or typographical errors. The publishers reserve the right to edit any submitted material.

The Emmitsburg Regional Dispatch  
10635 Harney Road  
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## MEREDITH HONORED BY CONNECTICUT ALUMNI

Dr. William G. Meredith, professor of biology and former dean of undergraduate studies at Mount Saint Mary's College, has been honored by the Connecticut Chapter of the Mount's National Alumni Association.

Meredith, a Mount Saint Mary's faculty member since 1957, was honored for years of service to the College as a faculty member and administrator. Dr. Frank P. Merolla, former National Alumni Association vice president and a former student of Meredith's, presented the service award at the Nov. 16 chapter luncheon.

Meredith has been a cornerstone of the Mount's respected science program, and he is a former chair of what was then the Department of Science and Mathematics. His administrative service also includes being dean from 1982-88 and again from 1995-96.



Dr. William G. Meredith

Merolla and Mount President George R. Houston both described Meredith as the epitome of all that is good about Mount Saint Mary's.

"Bill Meredith has served this academic house in almost every way possible," Houston said, "and clearly the greatest testimony to his career comes from our alumni. The outpouring of respect and love that we see and hear everywhere for this gentleman professor truly says it all. He has been their teacher, mentor, and caring friend, in some cases for generations.

"When you need a role model for the college professor, you need look no farther than Bill Meredith."

The Connecticut Chapter is one of the oldest in a system that serves nearly 12,000 alumni of Mount Saint Mary's College and Seminary. Its members also support an annual scholarship for a Mount undergraduate.

## Community Chorus

The Emmitsburg Community Chorus will present its 33rd annual Christmas concert on Sunday, December 8th, at 3:00 p.m. in the basilica at St. Joseph's Provincial House. The 24-voice Chorus is directed by Mrs. Sandy Soffe; Mrs. Pat McElroy is the accompanist. Mr. John Soffe will be serving as the concert narrator.

People living throughout the Christian era, in every land reached by the "good news," have sung their joy in Christ's coming among themselves, giving thanks and praise to God as they did so. America's cultural variety has created a catalog of carols from many lands and traditions, and so the program's theme is "Joy to the World." The glorious English carol of the same name will both lead and end the concert. Many of the carols will be familiar to the listener; others may be new to your ears. Between selections by the choir, Mr. Soffe's narrative will provide information and insight into the history of the carols and the customs of Christmas celebrations around the world.

Please join the Emmitsburg Community Chorus for this program. St. Joseph's Basilica is accessible for all persons regardless of handicap. The concert is presented at no charge, although a freewill offering will be collected during intermission. Help us to sing, and bring, "Joy to the World."

### 100 YEARS from page 4

of the town - present this whole case of the breaking the perpetrators thereof, as a warning and terror to evil doers - for "The good need fear no law: It is his safety, and a bad man's awe."


Your exposition of the case of these "young ladies" has already been copied into the Baltimore *Sim*, and no doubt will be into the principal papers of the land - probably into the N.Y. *Police Gazette*; indeed the "Rogues Gallery" may yet be ornamented with their doomed, though handsome faces.

...Now, my dear sir, I feel constrained to give you a little gratuitous and kindly counsel... No editor has a right, with impunity, to publish respectable names in disreputable connection, without giving, at least, both sides of the question; and the more emphatic is this law of social order, when the names so exposed to

public view are those of "young ladies." Because these "young ladies" are bicyclists is no reason they should be treated with disrespect. All fair minded men and women have the good common sense to attend to their own affairs and give every woman the privilege of choosing her own diversion. Your town, too, is quickened and enlivened by the "gay and fairy wheel." Respectfully Your Friend, BIRD.

[We give space to the above communication in order that our readers may fully know what condemnation has been placed upon us for doing that which we saw no harm in doing. The article in question was not published with any disrespect, whatever, for those concerned, it being merely an item of news. Furthermore, we know of no person who looks upon the unfortunate ladies as wrong-doers who would knowingly violate any law. Further comment on the subject is unnecessary. -Editor.]

Deadline For January Issue  
December 20, 1996



**"Thistlefields"**  
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## SENIOR CITIZENS NEWS

by Anna Margaret Martin

"Hark, hark," the angels sang. "Peace on Earth, good will to men."

A Babe was born in a lowly manger—destined to change our lives forever. "Christ the Saviour is born," came the angels' song.

This is the time of the year when we all glow in the spirit of Christmas. Wouldn't it be wonderful if we could have this glorious feeling all year through?

Let's try it!

Here at the center we will be decorating a tree plus our room and enjoying it all through the holiday season. Christmas music will be playing, and we will be smiling and wishing you all "Happy Holidays!"

Our Fall Bazaar, held on Nov. 9, was a great success. A list of the chance winners follows:

Fancy Table: 1st Prize (\$25.00 Jubilee gift certificate) - Vera Eiker  
2nd Prize (afghan) -Lula Turner

White Elephant: 1st Prize (doll) - Harriet Buhrman  
2nd Prize (letter holder) Helen Miller

Country Store: 1st Prize (groceries) -Cecilia Hobbs  
2nd Prize (salad bowl set) -Faine Rodgers

Plant Table: 1st Prize (groceries) -Ethel Stultz  
2nd Prize (set of glasses - Loretta Adelsberger

Rummage: 1st Prize (phone) - Alice Summers  
2nd Prize (stuffed dog) - Bill Wivell

Cake Table: 1st Prize (cake) - Kay Ainsworth  
2nd Prize (moose in a can) - David Glass

Door Prize: David Northrup

Quilt: Beatrice Bentz, Thurmont

Activities during December are as follows:

Thurs., Dec. 5, 1 p.m.: Bingo

Tues., Dec 10, 1:30 p.m.: Frederick Shopping

Thurs., Dec 12, 1 p.m. : "500" Card Party

Thurs., Dec. 19, 1 p.m. : Christmas Bingo

During Christmas vacation, the center will be open Dec. 23, 26, 27, 30, and 31.

We will be getting our lunch from Mountaingate. Reservations are a must, at least 24 hours in advance. Call Anna Margaret at the center (447-6253) for information.

There will be no meeting in December. We will be closed Christmas Day (Dec. 25) and New Year's Day (Jan.1).

Come visit us during the holiday season. May you all have a Merry Christmas and a New Year full of hope and joy.

## Obituaries

### Mr. Robert I. Troxell

Mr. Robert Ignatius Troxell, 89, formerly of Emmitsburg, and a resident of Citizens Nursing Home since 1993, died there Monday, Nov. 18.

Born June 10, 1907, in Emmitsburg, he was the son of the late William Henry and Mary Alice Topper Troxell. He was the last of his immediate family.

Mr. Troxell was a member of St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church, Emmitsburg, and Knights of Columbus Council No. 1622 of Frederick. He was a retired farmer and a lifelong resident of Emmitsburg.

Surviving are one daughter, Mary T. Keepers and husband John of Frederick; one son, Robert Maurice Troxell of Florida; 12 grandchildren; one great-granddaughter; and several nieces and nephews.

Mr. Troxell was preceded in death by a son, John Ignatius Troxell; two brothers, Charles F. Troxell and J. Henry Troxell; and three sisters, Mary Rose Troxell, Anna Isabella Troxell and Helen Oster.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held on Thursday, Nov. 21, at St. Joseph's Catholic Church, Emmitsburg, with the Rev. Fr. Michael Kennedy as the celebrant.

Interment was in St. Joseph's Cemetery, Emmitsburg.

In lieu of flowers the family has requested that memorial donations in Mr. Troxell's name be made to Hospice of Frederick County, P. O. Box 1799 Frederick, MD 21701, or to Citizens Nursing Home, Rosemont Avenue Frederick, MD 21702.

(Additional Obituary on page 25)

### Expression of Appreciation

Our family would like to express their sincere appreciation to all those of the Emmitsburg area and nearby communities for their tremendous outpouring of sympathy and support upon the death of our beloved husband and father, Albert Wivell. We are very grateful to everyone for the many cards, flowers, and masses that were sent to us. Your prayers have also been a tremendous comfort at this time of loss. In times like these, it is wonderful to have so many caring friends and to know that so many of you were touched by this special man as we were! May God bless you all!

Elsie Wivell & Family

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Reservations Suggested

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## Looking Ahead.....

### Wednesday, December 4

**Domestic Violence Workshop - "A Community Response to Family Violence,"** sponsored by Heartly House and Catoctin CASS, from 3:30-5:00 p.m. at the Emmitsburg Community Center. Refreshments will be served. Open to the entire community. For more information call 662-8800 or 447-3611.

### Friday-Sunday December 6-8

**Country Christmas Fare** at the Community Center, 6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m. on Friday and 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Saturday and Sunday. Arts, crafts, refreshments, and entertainment.

### Saturday, December 7

**Elias Lutheran Church Annual Christmas Supper and Bazaar** starting at 1:00 p.m. Needlework, fancy table, homebaked products, and a turkey, beef, & ham supper with apple fritters. Adults \$7. Children \$3. Carryouts \$8. Children under 6 free.

**Handel's Messiah performed by the Thurmont Community Choir** at the historic Apples Church in Thurmont at 7:30 p.m. For more information call 416-7313 or 271-2307. [See also article on p. 24.]

### Sunday, December 8

**Emmitsburg Community Chorus's 33rd Annual Christmas Concert**, at 3:00 p.m. in the basilica at St. Joseph's Provincial House. The basilica is accessible for all persons regardless of handicap. There will be a freewill offering.

### Sunday, December 15

**"A Taste of Christmas" - a concert of holiday music by the Sunrise Singers of Saint Joseph's Church**, at 2:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall. Admission to the concert is free. A free-will offering will be received to support youth activities for area children. [See article on p. 26.]

**"Candlelight in the Studio Gallery" Open House** from 4-7 p.m.

at the Studio Gallery, 304 East Main Street. Holiday arts, crafts & gifts for sale.

### Wednesday, December 18

**The Tom's Creek "Oldies & Goodies" Christmas luncheon.** The organization celebrated their tenth birthday Oct. 30, 1996. There is an average attendance of 28 at their meetings, including several residents of the Comfort Care Nursing Home in Fairfield, PA. The group invites anyone to attend, and if you are interested and desire more information please call Linda Fogle at 301-898-7355.

### Thursday and Friday, December 19-20

**Santa's Shanty**, located at the Ambulance Company building, from 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

### Saturday, December 21

**Santa's Shanty**, 12 noon - 2:00 p.m. with a children's Christmas Party from 10:00 - 12 noon. before Santa arrives.

### Tuesday, December 24

**Tom's Creek United Methodist Church**, with luminaries to light your way, will celebrate Christ's birth with candlelight services at 7:00 p.m. and 11:00 p.m. The children's program will be 9:30 a.m. Dec. 15 after the 8:15 a.m. worship service, followed by the 10:30 a.m. worship. The church is on Tom's Creek Road (off Route 140 between Taneytown and Emmitsburg).

### Saturday, January 4

**Feast Day of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton**, Mass at 10:30 a.m. in the Basilica at the National Shrine of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, 333 S. Seton Avenue, Reverend John Di Bacco, celebrant. The mass will be followed by a taped presentation at 11:30 a.m. of a Monologue on the Life of Elizabeth Ann Seton by Susan Thornton.

Please see page 26 for additional events.

## EMMITSBURG AT WORK



**Johanna Schmersal, Frank Schmersal (a.k.a.) Santa, Shaun Fritts, and Bobby Fritts**  
Photo courtesy Rena Damskey

by Rena Damskey

The holidays are fast approaching. Everyone in Emmitsburg seems to be hard at work. Preparations are under way for Lamplight and Holly and town crafters are at their busiest, preparing to surprise us with their work at the Country Christmas Fare. Walking around town you can see merchants stocking shelves and decorating windows. The window at the Studio Gallery is displayed with the work of nine artists from our Arts League and, I think, is the highlight of Main Street.

Last night I had the privilege of talking to the most important worker in town. Of course this time of year that would be Santa Claus. Santa told me his workload has drastically increased this year due to the excellent behavior of the children. "I have a ball listening to kids of all ages, seeing different reactions and hearing them ask for what they want. Some of the little ones get scared and

won't come near me. This seems to happen just when the parents want to take a picture." I asked Santa where his reindeer stay when he is busy making his list. He said he tells the children, "They are tied up out in the town park." And what would Santa like? Being young at heart, Santa said he would like to ride a fire engine!

In Santa's other life he is Frank Schmersal. Frank has lived in Emmitsburg for nine and a half years with his wife Amy and his daughters: Johanna, who is 15, and Renata, age 7. Frank works for Hekimian Laboratories in Rockville as a marketing communications manager. Frank is much appreciated for his year-long contributions to our town. He is treasurer of the Emmitsburg Business and Professionals Association and is secretary of the Emmitsburg Historical Society. Frank also sings in the Elias Lutheran Church Choir.



## ANNUAL CHRISTMAS FOOD DRIVE

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If you know of someone in need this Christmas season contact any Lions Club member or Mark Zurgable at 447-2020.





## Emmitsburg Branch Library

By Kate Warthen

Things are moving so fast at the Emmitsburg Branch of Frederick County Public Libraries that I can hardly keep up with all that is happening. Volunteers from the Lions Club recently came to box up books to be sent to C. Burr Artz Central Library for the big booksale. Like all our volunteers they give generously of their time and energy every time they help us out.

The new hours seem to be pleasing to the community. It is hospitable not to have to push people out of the door at noon and at 5:00 p.m. If you haven't been able to visit in the past because our hours have been inconvenient, please come in to view our new books, magazines, videos...

We have exciting plans for new children's programs and we are always interested in your ideas. Schools are bringing their classes in for visits, fall is almost gone, and like everyone else, we are thinking of the holidays. Stop by and find out what is going on in the library this winter.

Good things are happening with the staff as well. Cathy Link has the distinction of working on the Newberry Committee. This gives her an opportunity to review the very best of the new books for young readers. Also, please welcome Amy Schildwachter, who has

joined the staff and brings a wealth of experience.

Some new books that may be of interest to you have been added to our collection. Our collection is being improved all the time and there are new children's books. Here are two new books which have appealed to me:

*The Feng Shui of the Workplace* by Angel Thompson - To many Chinese, *feng shui* is essential to the art of business management. Citibank in Hong Kong would not erect its new building without the approval of a *feng shui* master. *Feng shui* is based on the idea that the *chi*, or energy, in every space has its own personality. Those who occupy the space reflect the personality of the *chi* in it. When the space you live or work in is arranged in harmony with nature, life can be good.

*The Dream Encyclopedia* by James R. Lewis - In the 4th century BC, Chinese philosopher Chaung-tzu raised the following conundrum: while people are dreaming, they do not perceive that it is a dream. Dreams have long exercised a fascination over the human imagination. We spend approximately one-third of our lives in a state of sleep and much of the night is filled with dreams. What significance do dreams have for the dreamer? Read this and find out.

## Emmitsburg Crop Walk



Emmitsburg residents Loretta Adelsberger (left) and Chata Carr waiting for walkers at the second check point at Scott Road (mile 8) with drinks, snacks, and encouragement. Photo Courtesy of Joe Purello

The first CROP Walk sponsored jointly by Mount Saint Mary's College and the Emmitsburg Council of Churches was a big success. The combined efforts of Mount employees, students, seminarians, and residents of the Emmitsburg area nearly doubled the amount of money raised in the community last year.

A total of \$3,100 in contributions was collected from 54 walkers who made all or part of a 10-mile trek around College Mountain on October 27. In addition, 11 volunteers were stationed at checkpoints along the way to aid the walkers.

Of the total money collected, 25 percent will be given to the Emmitsburg Food Bank, and the other 75 percent to Church World Service for its overseas hunger-relief program.

Lisa Wilson, a junior at the Mount, raised \$301, the largest amount collected by a single individual.

There are about 3,000 such CROP Walks across the country and about 45 in the Maryland-Delaware region. According to Church World Service's regional director Gigi Gruenke, the local trek was the longest in the Mid-Atlantic region.

Church World Service began after WWII when a number of denominations came together to form an agency "to do in partnership what none of us could hope to do as well alone." Their mission was to assist people in the war-torn countries and over the years has expanded to help developing countries. CROP denotes Church World Service community-based events to help stop world hunger.



From left Luis Bonilla, Mount St. Mary seminarian, Mae Richardson, Mount freshman, and Father Jerry Francik, campus chaplain, starting out on this year's CROP Walk. Photo by Joe Purello

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## Emmitsburg Flowers & Gifts



## CROUSE'S ON THE SQUARE CELEBRATES 50TH ANNIVERSARY

by Christina Stevenson

The clinking of a cowbell sounds as you enter Crouse's on the Square, a "one-stop shop" which has been in Emmitsburg for fifty years. On April 2, 1946, Mrs. Edna Crouse opened the store with her late husband, Walter F. Crouse. In the early years, a section of the store was a restaurant where Mount Saint Mary's students and nearby factory workers stopped by to have lunch. In January of 1980, the restaurant portion of Crouse's gave way to a display of Fire Academy memorabilia and clothing.



Edna Crouse

While you are browsing through the quaint shop, Mrs. Crouse can make you a thick shake with the original fifty-year-old milk shakers, a banana split, a classic malt, or a sundae. A favorite among the range of sundaes is the "Dusty Road," which is a chocolate sundae with malt powder sprinkled on top. Regular scoops of ice cream in cones are available in a variety of flavors.

There is a wide selection of gift items offered for the holidays such as stuffed animals by Mary Meyer and Dakin, Whitman's candy, jewelry, per-

fumes, and wallets. Cards, stationery, and gift wrap are also available. If you do not have a stamp, not to worry: there is a machine right in the store from which you can buy your postage! Customers will also find everyday items like over-the-counter medications, cosmetics, and toiletries. There is a little bit of everything at Crouse's on the Corner! Stop by Crouse's on Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 11:30 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. and on Saturdays from 11:30 a.m. until 7:00 p.m.

## College Bookstore Serves the Entire Community

Obviously a college book store provides students with all the things required by students. Not so well known is the fact that the college bookstore at Mount Saint Mary's is also open to the residents of the Emmitsburg community and is a fun place to shop for a wide variety of gifts and clothing.

There are racks after racks of imprinted and college monogrammed clothing—the usual items one would expect students to wear—caps (one for every sport), T-shirts, sweatshirts, shorts, sweat pants, jackets; all proudly bearing the MSM logos. "We even have baby and toddler clothing as well as outfits for youth," said Marion Dodd, the store manager. "Look at this, I call it a 'Onesie' ... a 'drop 'em in and go' baby outfit complete with footies and mittens... I had these for my kids and loved them," she said. As Marion continued to point out the wide variety of items, my mind was at a different place thinking of how my new grandson would look in this or that "cool" MSM outfit.

Weaving through the racks Marion displayed knit sweaters from Ecuador, as well as insulated jackets, rain slickers, golf towels, and socks. There were back-packs, duffel bags, glasswear, monogrammed mugs, picture frames, posters, calendars, and even bird houses and feeders. "We even have

some MSM Christmas balls coming in," Marion said. "And look here, there are sketches of college scenes by Frederick artist Harry Richardson as well as a signed and numbered lithograph of the National Shrine of the Grotto of Lourdes."

And then came the books! Most of the book trade centers around text books but there is also a wide selection of Trade Books, fiction and non-fiction, covering a wide range of topics. I made a mental note to check out the baking book peeking out from the top shelf as I hustled to keep up with Marion, who was now headed for the racks of "CD's." There was also a little sign that announced 10% off on paperbacks and 20% off on hardbacks. My pact with the baking book was sealed.

Catching up with our guide at the CD's I discovered rows of all kinds of music and even the option of making special orders. Rock and roll!

As I paused to take it all in, the notion of doing a little Christmas shopping here danced in my head. I saw an intriguing-looking book I could get for Jean, a Rugby hat for Noli (now 3 months old), and a beer mug for my flower arrangements.



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and a carnation. Sign up for door prizes.



## EMMITSBURG HALLOWEEN FESTIVITIES: A COMMUNITY COLLABORATION



Halloween Night. Fantasies un-wind in the darkness of the night. Some of the costume winners gather for a celebration portrait. *A Ghoulish Press Photo*

By Christina Stevenson

As the result of a combined effort by Emmitsburg's community organizations and residents, Thursday, October 31st, was a night that included trick-or-treating, a parade, a costume contest, and a party. Trick-or-treaters went from house to house, collected goodies, then lined up for the parade. There were striking costumes ranging from grim reapers to angels. A party for the children was held inside the Ambulance Company where they enjoyed cake, apple cider, music, and dancing. Prizes for the costume contest were awarded to the following: Cutest: 1st, Blake Barnhart and Samantha Gladhill (Raggedy Ann and Andy); 2nd, Alexander Tipton (Insulator); 3rd, Dakota Barnhart (Pumpkin); Scariest: 1st, Zack Bennet (Spider in a Web); 2nd, Scott Shanholtz (Monster); 3rd, Ben Allis (Grim Reaper); Funniest: 1st, Kyle

Wagerman (Little Spider); 2nd, Mason and Dylan Harley (Big Game Hunter and Lion); 3rd, Taylor Shorb (Little Red Riding Hood and Wolf); Most Original: 1st, Becca Liddle and Rene Parks (Haunted House); 2nd, Amanda Stutzman (Grocery Bag); 3rd, Two Knights (names unknown). Judges were Robert Preston, Lois Hartdagen, Joyce Rosensteel, and Mary Topper. Organizations involved with the events include the Emmitsburg Ambulance Company, Francis X. Elder Post 121 American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary to Francis X. Elder Post 121, Lions Club, V.F.W., Vigilant Hose Company, and Vigilant Hose Fire Police.

Music was provided by the D.J. services of Jeff and Paula Smith. The third place prize for Most Original (Two Knights) has not been claimed so the names of the winners are not known. If you think this may be you, contact the Francis X. Elder Post 121 in Emmitsburg.

## Post 121 appreciates assistance

Francis X. Elder Post 121 of the American Legion would like to thank all of the organizations that helped with this year's Halloween parade held Oct 31.

We thank the Emmitsburg Ambulance Co. for the use of their building and participating in the parade; the Vigilant Hose Company for their equipment and lighting; the Lions Club; Post 6658 of the VFW for donating the prize money; Patrick Ott for supplying the cider; the Legion Auxiliary for their help with distributing the registration numbers and refreshments;

CPI; and Jeff and Paula Smith for the music following the parade.

The Legion appreciates your help and patronage this past year and wish all our friends a glorious Christmas and a Happy New Year in 1997.

Reminder: the next Post and Auxiliary meeting will be held Tues, Dec. 3. The Sons of the Legion will hold their meeting on Wed., Dec. 4 at 7:30 at the post home. Come out and support your Post so we all can support our community.

## Child Care Center Celebrates Thanksgiving

Emmitsburg Child Care Center held its first Thanksgiving Dinner for the children and their families on Tuesday, November 19, in the Center's gym. The Center provided turkey and the trimmings and the parents shared their favorite covered dishes. It was attended by a large number of families and a very enjoyable time was had by everyone.

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## American Legion Auxiliary

By Lois Hartdagen and Nancy Danner

The American Legion Auxiliary to Francis X. Elder Post #121 has had a very active 1995-1996.

In December 1995, the auxiliary purchased a large American Legion parade flag and it was presented to the post at our annual auxiliary Christmas party. The flag is proudly displayed in the Post Home. We plan on another surprise this December. We also sold over 100 Santa stockings at \$1.00 each. A Christmas card signed by the auxiliary and post members was sent to the service personnel on the *USS Gettysburg*.

On December 31st the post had a New Year's party and the ladies brought a covered dish to add to the festivities.

In February the auxiliary sold Valentine hearts at \$1.00 each. Each was autographed by the purchaser and hung on the wall to help decorate the social room.

Each March at the regular monthly meeting the auxiliary has a covered dish supper before the meeting to honor the post's birthday.

In April we have our yearly Stanley party, which is always a success.

In May, Poppy Month, the auxiliary constructs wreaths from the poppies made by our disabled veterans in hospitals, and on Memorial Day they are placed at the Honor Roll at the Legion and at the Doughboy in honor of our war dead of all wars. This year flowers were purchased by the auxiliary and planted along the side of the post and in front of the Honor Roll in memory of all deceased members of the post and the auxiliary. We also helped the men place flags on all the veterans' graves in the area. We sell poppies in the Post Home, with the proceeds going to the disabled veterans.

On June 14 we helped serve refreshments after the flag-burning ceremony at Memorial Park. Due to inclement weather the refreshments were served at the post. Also in June we had a successful bake sale.

We entered an officer's car in the July 4th parade and gave a donation to the Lions Club for fireworks.

The auxiliary assists the men at all their feeds. During this past year we have been furnishing desserts for these feeds, and compliments abound from those who have a sweet tooth.

Our chaplain sends get-well cards to sick members and bud vases to those in the hospital. We conduct memorial services for deceased members and send flowers to the family or a memorial donation to a worthy cause in the name of the deceased.

We sell delicious baked ham sandwiches for \$1.00 at the post. We plan a roast beef sandwich and french fry dinner in the future.

This October we had another successful bake sale.

The auxiliary also helps with the Halloween party in October. We help number the participants, serve cider and gingerbread, and help with the judging. This year the auxiliary furnished the gingerbread for all the ghosts and goblins.

Each year the auxiliary sponsors an essay contest. Mother Seton School participates and awards are given on auxiliary, district, department, and national levels.

Each November we send our yearly newsletter and chance books to our members. This letter reminds members of our current officers, monthly meetings, dues, the Stanley party and the auxiliary Christmas party which will be held December 17 this year. Auxiliary, guests, and post members are invited to this covered dish turkey and ham dinner. We exchange gifts and give door prizes; an enjoyable time is had by all.

This December we will be selling Christmas stockings and ornaments at \$1.00 each. They are hung on the wall with the purchasers' names on them, adding to the Christmas theme. Wreaths of pine are made and placed at the Honor Roll and Doughboy each Christmas season in memory of our deceased veterans.

All of these activities keep us very busy. Auxiliary members are encouraged to attend our meetings held the first Tuesday of each month. If you haven't attended for awhile come join us, and let's see what we can do.

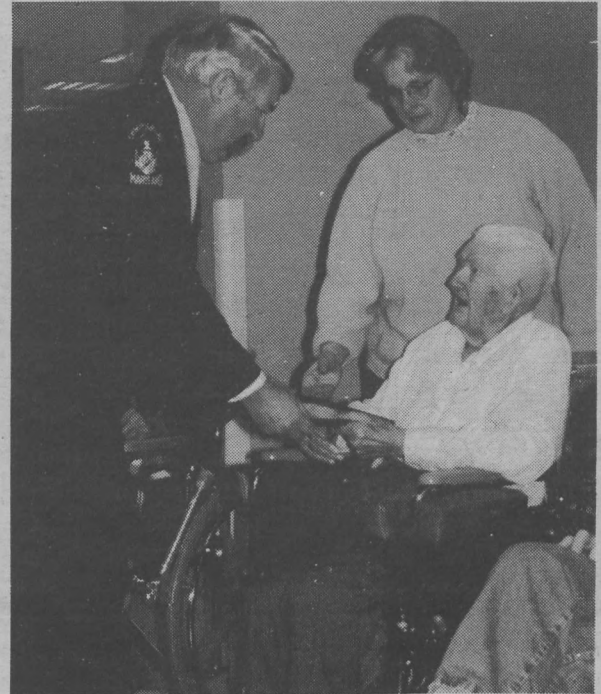
## Veterans Remembered

On Veteran's Day, November 11th, members of the Francis X.

Elder American Legion Post and Auxiliary visited St. Catherine's Nursing Center to honor the veterans in residence there. Tom Humerick, post adjutant, thanked the men for the service "you have given to your country," and presented each one with a certificate of appreciation.

Members of the auxiliary distributed baskets of fruit decorated with a small flag to those gathered for the ceremony: Steven Sikorski, Earle Finger, Arvin P. Jones, Austin Joy, Stephen Knott, Kenneth Davidson, Norman Peach, John Preston, and Richard Clevinger. "We try to do what we can for our fellow men," Mr. Humerick said.

Austin Joy of Emmitsburg and a resident of St. Catherine's for 6



Adjutant Tom Humerick awards certificate of appreciation to veteran Arvin P. Jones.

months, said "It was wonderful — we can't express our feeling for this nice visit." Mr. Joy was a maintenance worker at St. Joseph's for 23 years and will be 91 years old on December 5th. "The good years were the first 90," he said. Happy Birthday, Austin Joy, and may the years continue to be good ones for you.



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## The Rosensteel Studio



Bob and Jean Rosensteel have expanded services of their wedding photography business.

The new Rosensteel Studio is an outgrowth of Friend of the Family Wedding Photography, Inc. According to owner Bob Rosensteel, "We can meet the community's photographic needs more conveniently than ever. We now offer a broad range of professional photographic services.... We can do the same things that large-store photographic departments do.... We do it right here on a more individual basis."

One feature of the fully-equipped studio is the Instant Visual System which Rosensteel uses in conjunction with portraiture, especially for the popular glamour shots. Clients are able to view the poses in color on a television monitor. Choices can be made on the spot without waiting for proofs. Of course, proofs are available if desired.

"Not only do we get the photograph to the client sooner; it is guaranteed," said Rosensteel. "The studio meets

professional and technical standards of the Kodak Company and qualifies as a member of Kodak's 'Promise of Excellence' program. This means the quality of the photograph is guaranteed for its lifetime.... If it fades, just bring it in and it will be restored."

"Being a home-based community business means we can offer more flexible arrangements.... This is really important when we photograph kids and pets.... You have to get 'em when they're feeling good," observed Rosensteel.

Included in the photographic services offered by the studio are computerized restoration of damaged or fading photos, original negative replacement, custom black and white work, making

negatives of Polaroid prints, and positive transparency work for postcards.

In addition to normal portrait work, the studio also does light commercial work for local businesses, craftsmen, and artists. The studio covers special events such as reunions, parties, picnics, business events, and religious events. A new service is transferring photos, slides, and old movie film to video tapes that can be played on home VCR's. "We know that the original work is often the only copy or one-of-

a-kind and cannot be replaced. That's why these items never leave our hands; we make sure they are protected," Rosensteel said.

The studio specializes in individual and personal appointments to suit clients' schedules at reasonable prices. Custom framing is also available.

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## ROCKY RIDGE NEWS

by Emma Keeney

December birthdays: Jean Knipple, Erin Eiker, Betty Ann Moser, Isabel Mathias.

Belated birthday wishes to Pastor Jim Russell and Kenneth Mumma.

Happy anniversary wishes to Viv and Jerry Martin on December 13.

### Mt. Tabor Events

Mt. Tabor youth prepared and delivered fruit baskets to the shut-ins from Mt Tabor churches on Nov. 24.

Dec. 8 - 9:30 a.m. : During worship, gloves, mittens, and socks will be collected by the children and put on the Christmas tree. They later will be given to Frederick Co. Emergency Services.

Dec. 8: UCC will have their congregational covered-dish meal at 12 noon, followed by a congregational meeting at 1:00 p.m.

Dec. 15 : Lutheran Church Christmas worship service and Holy Communion.

Dec. 22 - 9:30 a.m. : UCC Christmas worship service and Holy Communion.

Dec. 24 - 7:30 p.m. : Christmas Eve service presented by the Sunday School.

Events for the Church of the Brethren

Dec. 1 - 5:00 p.m. : Social program

Dec. 8 - 7:00 p.m. : Candlelight service

Dec. 22 : Children's program

(Date for Christmas caroling to be announced.)

Isabel Mathias enjoyed a lovely trip to Vermont Sept. 27-Oct.3, during which she stayed at Snow Hill Lodge, Bennington, Vermont. She toured a Vermont marble exhibit and the birthplace of Calvin Coolidge and saw a musical show called *Summer Squash*. On Sunday she attended the First Congregational Church in Bennington, dined at the Paradise Restaurant, toured the McCullough House, and went to another show.

The next day brought a tour of the Rock of Ages granite quarry and the State Capitol in Montpelier, as well as a visit to a maple syrup farm. Before leaving Vermont, Ms. Mathias also visited the Ethan Allen Homestead, Ben and Jerry's ice cream factory, Shelburne Museum and Farm, the Vermont Teddy Bear Co., and finally dined aboard the *Spirit of Ethan Allen* on Lake

Champlain as the sun set over the Adirondack Mountains.

**HALLOWEEN PARTY: OCTOBER 26, 1996**

Kenneth Sharrer gave the welcome, then read the 1986 Rocky Ridge newspaper. Many of us were surprised at what he had in his newspaper; we all

had some good chuckles. This was followed by the judging of pumpkins and costumes.

Pumpkin Competition, judged by Brenda Miller, Franklin Stambaugh, and Ed Ballew:

6-9 Yrs.  
Cody Wolf - Largest Mouth  
Matthew Keilholtz - Best Face Detail  
Jeanette Miller - Sportiest  
Erin Danaher - Smallest Detail

Jimmy Stambaugh - Overall best

10-14 Yrs  
Glenn Haines - Most edible  
Brittany Miller - Most original  
Melissa Sharrer - Scariest

15-18 Yrs.  
Kevin Sharrer - Happiest

*See Rocky Ridge next page*

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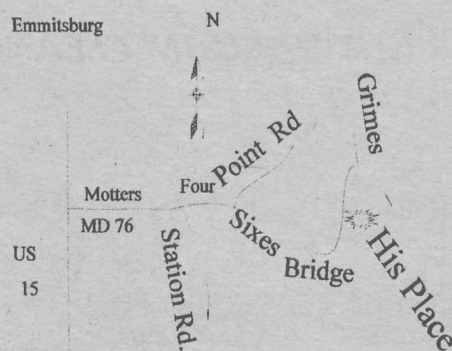
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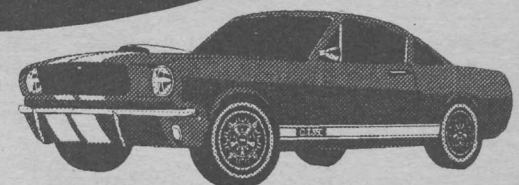
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**Rocky Ridge from page 14**

Michele Krom - Most original

19 & Up.

Kenneth Sharrer - Scariest  
Barb Keilholtz - Best Boy  
Shirley Sharrer - Best Girl

Costume competition, judged by Burneda and Jennifer Russell and Marie Stambaugh:

6-9 Yrs

Cody Wolfe - Most original  
Jimmy Stambaugh - Scariest  
Jeanette Miller - Prettiest  
David Cockerill - Ugliest

10-14 Yrs.

Glenn Haines - Most original  
Melissa Sharrer - Scariest  
Brittany Miller - Prettiest

15-18 Yrs.

Eddie Stambaugh and Michelle Krom - Most original

19 & Up.

Rev. James Russell - Most original  
Carolyn Cockerill - Prettiest  
Shirley Sharrer - Ugliest

"Guess What?" (bread) won by Pat Haines.

Door prize won by Barb Keilholtz and donated by Ethel Sharrer.

Prizes for pumpkins and costumes donated by Shirley Greene.

Games for children by Bonnie Sanders and Linda Shields.

Haunted basement by Young Adult class.

Refreshments by Rosie Stambaugh, Emma Keeney, Cathy Wolfe, Brenda Miller, and Emma Lou Harris.

**Engagements**

**KEENEY-POWELL**

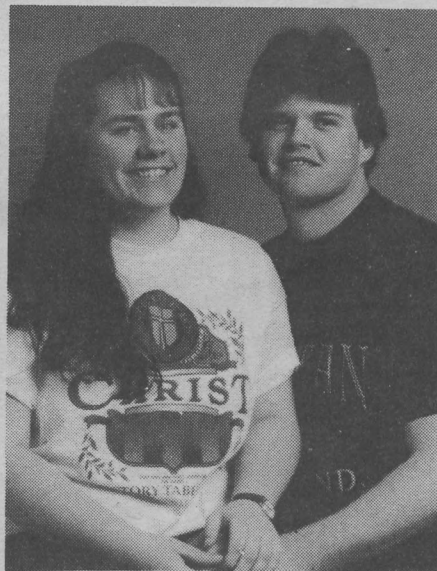


Mr. and Mrs. Carl L. Keeney of Rocky Ridge and Mr. and Mrs. Louis W. Powell Sr. of Thurmont announce the engagement of their children, Vicky Lee Keeney and Louis W. Powell Jr.

Ms. Keeney is a 1994 Catoc-tin High School graduate and is attending Villa Julie College. She is majoring in nursing.

Mr. Powell is a 1995 Catoc-tin High School graduate. He is employed by F. O. Day of Rockville. A spring 1998 wedding is planned.

**WILES-KEENEY**



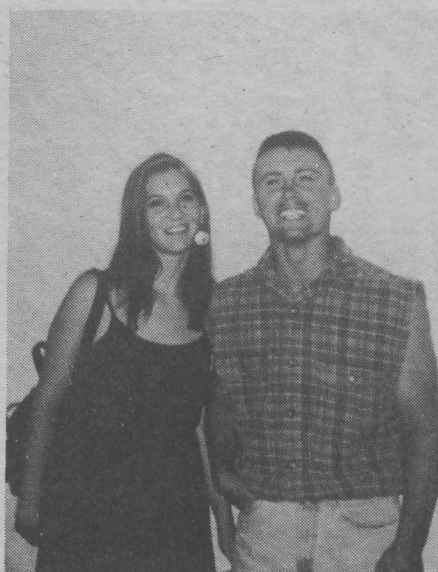
Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Wiles of Keymar, MD, would like to announce the engagement of their daughter Melissa Jo Wiles and Calvin Leo Keeney.

Miss Wiles is currently in her senior year at Walkersville High School and will graduate in June, 1997. She plans to pursue further education in the fall.

Mr. Keeney is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Carl L. Keeney of Rocky Ridge, MD. Calvin is a 1993 graduate of Catoc-tin High School. He is currently employed by Ridge Electrical Systems in Frederick.

An August 16, 1997, wedding is planned.

**SMITH-HARRIS**



Liberty Elsie Smith of Kempner, TX, and Michael James Harris Jr. of Rocky Ridge, MD, announce their engagement. Miss Smith is the daughter of Sgt. Steel and Linda Smith of Kempner, TX. Mr. Harris is the son of Mike and Emma Harris of Rocky Ridge, MD.

Miss Smith is a 1995 graduate of Ft. Knox High School, Ft. Knox, KY. She is currently enrolled at Central Texas College.

Mr. Harris is a 1994 graduate of Catoc-tin High School, Thurmont, MD. He is employed by the United States Army as a Cavalry Scout and is currently stationed at Ft. Hood, TX.

Wedding plans are still in process, with a date still to be set.

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## MT. TABOR QUILTERS

by Inspector 13

As TV advertisers say, the "major" holiday season of the year is approaching—fast. It doesn't matter if you are Christian, Jewish, or other, the fever of the season is contagious. And it does seem to be the longest holiday of the year, beginning with Hallowe'en and ending after New Year's Day.

A time filled with specials—shopping, gifts, parties, cards, and letters. It is a time for reaching out to friends and family and to those less fortunate than ourselves.

Mt. Tabor Quilters, as a group, will celebrate on December 16 with our annual banquet and by making a donation to a local food bank. Each quilter is working on projects such as making place favors for banquets, decorating Emmitsburg, and lighting their home surroundings. Some will deliver fruit baskets to shut-ins and visit nursing homes.

A few of us will also look at our patterns and magazines and lament that the projects for 1996 will have to be finished in 1997.

The group has one project to complete before Christmas. That is to finish several baby quilts to brighten someone's holiday.

In the next few weeks we will meet some "bah-humbugs," but we'll also know some "sugar-plum fairies." We need to remember that the holiday spirit is like a quilt—joined together one piece after another, blended with love and care over a long period of time.

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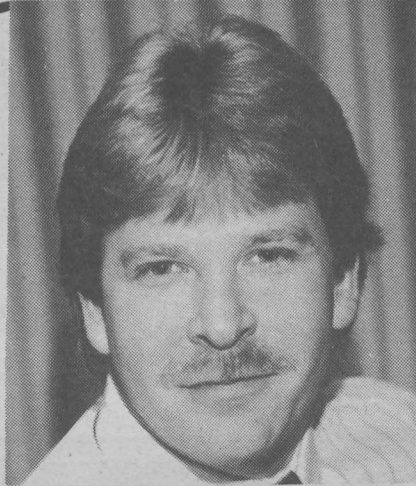
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## St. Anthony/OLMC News

By Ann Marshall

The annual Christmas party for the joint parishes will be held on Sunday, December 15, at OLMC Parish Center from 3:00 - 5:00 p.m. Cecil the Clown will be making a return visit. Donations of baked goodies for the refreshment table will be appreciated.

Two practices for the Youth Christmas Mass, Pageant, and Choir have been scheduled for December. Those wishing to participate in the Christmas Eve Liturgies are urged to attend both practices.

Sunday 12/8/96, 2 - 4 p.m., at OLMC Parish Center and St. Anthony's Hall

Sunday 12/22/96, 10:30 a.m. - Noon, OLMC Parish Center and St. Anthony's Church

All children and youth are invited to participate in the Christmas celebrations. There will be a Children's Christmas Liturgy at Mt. Carmel and a Liturgy and Pageant at St. Anthony's. Both Liturgies will begin at 5:00 p.m. on December 24. For further information, call the Religious Education Office, 271-4099.

A Holiday Open House will be hosted by Fr. Leo Tittler on Saturday, December 14, after the 4:00 p.m. Mass. Parishioners and friends of St. Anthony Shrine are invited to share re-

freshments and tour the rectory, schoolhouse and upper hall.

Adopt-A-Family Project provides a way for members of the St. Anthony/OLMC congregation to spread Christmas love to the less fortunate. Nine needy family have been identified and their ages, sex, and clothing sizes are available (anonymously, of course) to donors. For more information about this annual outreach, please call the church office, 447-2367, and a member of the Human Services Committee will return your call. Help is also needed to wrap and package the gifts which will be ready for distribution on December 13.

Carnival Cruise raffle tickets are available at \$10 each for a 5-day/4-night vacation for two to Mexico or the Bahamas. Package includes round-trip airfare, four nights aboard ship with all meals, entertainment, taxes and transfers provided. Drawing will be December 15, 1996. Information: 447-2367

St. Anthony Shrine Parish Community welcomes into the Catholic faith: Brittany Nicole Wivell baptized November 10. Brittany is the daughter of Terry and Rachel Wivell; Hunter Christopher Krantz, baptized November 17. Hunter is the son of Shane and Angie Krantz; Coleman David Wivell, baptized November 24. Coleman is the son of Chris and Mary Ann Wivell.

## CARING FOR WILDLIFE

By Jeannie Eycler and Gil Eiker

Want to help keep the birds warm this winter? Here's a little thing you can do, and it will not cost you anything but time. If you do this in your backyard, it will give your children or grandchildren something to watch on cold winter days.

Caring for wildlife is a year-round job, and we do our part for each season. This is December, and with chill in the air there is no better time to start placing suet in the back yard, woods, along streams, and even in fence rows. Suet is fat off of meat; you can get it at any grocery store. What you need to do is save your netted produce bags, or cheese cloth. It only needs to be big enough to hold a fist-sized piece of suet. This fat or suet is food to the birds. It helps their bodies produce heat as cold

weather sets in, and they need it. So, hang this tasty meal for the birds, because there are at least three cunning animals out there you need to outsmart. They are squirrels, raccoons, and opossums. You will have to use some type of discarded electrical cord, not string or mason cord. These animals are smart enough to gnaw it off the limb to get to it. Make sure the discarded electrical cord is long enough to hang down about two feet off the limb. I have seen squirrels pull it up paw over paw the same as a human pulling up a rope. I'm sure a raccoon can do the same: this is just one of the wonders animals can do.

When you have time, take a walk in the woods and sit and watch. It's amazing what you can see.

### "Lights on for Life"

On Friday, Dec. 20, drive with your headlights on all day in observance of "Lights on for Life." Do this in remembrance of those who have been killed or injured by impaired drivers and to remind fellow residents about law enforcement's watchful eye on the impaired driver. Join the Frederick County Health Department in taking a stand against impaired driving. "Have a safe and sober holiday season."

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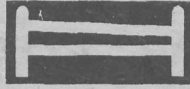
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## Over the White Board Fence...



By Mike Hillman

My first five years after college were spent serving as an Engineering Officer on board nuclear submarines. I can still clearly remember standing in the bottom of a drydock the night before the *USS Sunfish*, a nuclear-powered fast attack sub, was to be refloated after a two-year overhaul. Responsible for the operation of her nuclear power plant, I had learned an immense amount of practical and theoretical engineering during those two long years. The operation of the sub's nuclear reactor all seemed so simplistic and clear. During that two-year overhaul, I had resolved countless complex problems involving all the engineering disciplines and was confident that henceforth the resolution of any nuclear, electrical, or mechanical issue would always be within my capabilities. Then I bought a farm tractor.

One of the more immediate issues I had to address after buying the farm was obtaining a suitable tractor and mower to cut ten acres of pasture. My first inclination was to purchase a new tractor, but the sticker shock quickly made me reevaluate that option. My neighbor, Mr. Orndoff, who has helped me immeasurably in adapting to country life, suggested that I talk to Kermit Glass, a purveyor of used tractors. Kermit patiently listened as I explained

my needs and then walked me over to a "51 International H" on the far end of his line of tractors. With a twinkle in his eye, he explained that "she was owned by a local Amish farmer who only used her on Sunday when the other Amish were at church. She'll do you just fine. Just make sure that the oil pressure gauge is always pegged high." Kermit threw in an "almost new" bush-hog, and the deal was done.

To start the tractor, Kermit told me all I had to do was "just pull this button out, pull this lever back, and push this button in," which, when performed by Kermit, resulted in the tractor's immediately roaring to life. However, for unknown reasons and totally unbeknownst to me, the tractor took a profound dislike to me and decided that it would be good sport to humiliate me as often as possible. It wasted little time in doing so. The next day, I approached the tractor with confidence, and, following Kermit's direction, the tractor roared to life for ten seconds. Ten times I repeated the starting procedure, yet all I succeeded in accomplishing was to wear out the battery. Perplexed, I called Kermit for help. "Did you open the fuel valve?" he asked. "Fuel valve? What's that?" "It's that little valve under the fuel tank. Got to open that or you won't get any gas. Didn't you say you were a nuclear engineer?" With dented ego, I found and opened

the offending valve, the tractor came to life, and I proceeded to cut the pastures.

For some reason which now escapes me, I remember having fun the first few times I cut the pastures. I initially had aspirations to make the pastures look like golf greens, and for the first few months, cut and recut the pastures in every possible pattern and direction, meticulously insuring that no one blade of grass was higher than another. Most of my neighbors however, who are real farmers, would drive by and shake their heads in disbelief, especially when I would stand on the tractor and sing the theme song from "Green Acres." They, along with Audrey, obviously thought I needed to get a real life.

For the first two months the tractor ran well; then one day I noticed that the oil pressure gauge was no longer pegged high. I immediately shut off the tractor and called Kermit for advice. "Well, did you put any oil in it?" Oil? Oil?! Kermit never said anything about putting oil in it when I bought it. How could I have missed something so obvious? My feeling of incompetence was only increased when I had to call Kermit back ten minutes later to find out where the oil went in. His closing comment of "You sure you're a nuclear engineer?" sounded like a challenge, so I decided to prove my technical abilities and not simply add oil, but *change* the oil.

In no time at all, the oil was changed and, with the oil gauge pegged high, I confidently returned to cutting the field. Within an hour, however, the tractor exhaust became quite noticeable. Within another hour, the tractor was putting out a smoke screen that a World

War II destroyer captain would have been proud of. It was so bad that this time Kermit called me and asked if my house was on fire. When I explained that all I had done was change the oil, he asked what type of oil I had used. "10W-40 detergent oil, of course." "That wasn't too bright an idea there, Mike. You just cleaned out all the sludge and dirt that had been plugging up the cracks in that old engine. You really a nuclear engineer?" Faced with the very real possibility of receiving citations for violating air quality requirements and having to change the spark plugs every fifteen minutes, I decided to rebuild the engine. After all, I had rebuilt a nuclear reactor.

Word quickly spread around the neighborhood of my intentions, and the morning of the operation, I discovered that stands had been set up around the tractor and were rapidly filling with local farmers. Marty Wivell was in his glory directing the video crew, Earl May was preparing his play-by-play, and Kermit was warming up the crowd with predictions of what I would screw up. Gene Bankard even brought a few guns "just in case we have to put it or you out of misery." Undeterred by their sarcasm, I began to organize my tools, which brought howls of laughter as I quickly found out my pre-Zurgable socket set didn't have a socket large enough for even the smallest bolt or nut on the tractor. The laughter rose to its peak when I put on latex gloves to keep my hands clean. All day long the jokes about wannabe-farmer nuclear engineers flew fast and furious. In the end, when all the six-packs were consumed, the operation was declared a success and the tractor successfully started and ran without a hint of smoke.

(see *TRACTOR* on page 19)

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**(TRACTOR from page 18)**

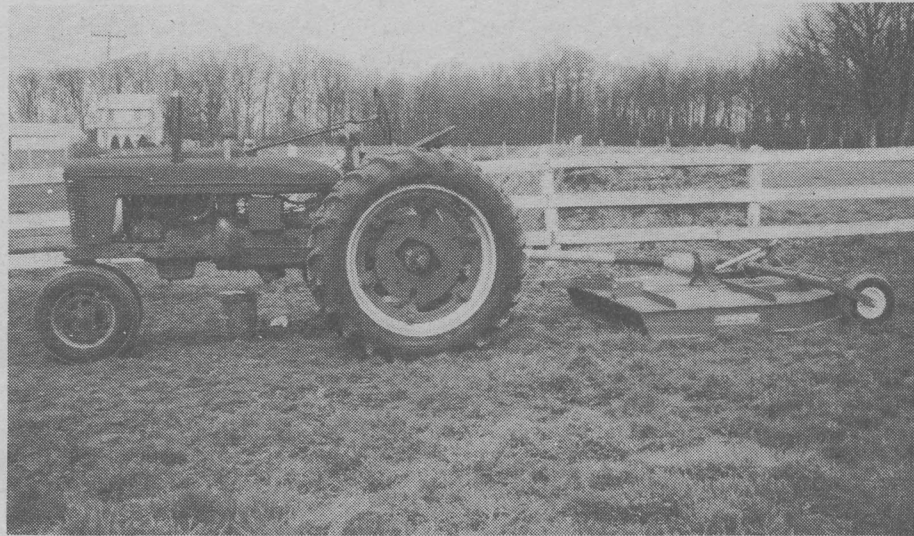
For a few years, all seemed well. Little did I know that the tractor's contempt for me was building. One day, after a suitable time had elapsed, it up and decided not to start. Unwilling to call Kermit and be humiliated, I spent the whole day checking and rechecking every electrical connection. As the sun began to set, I finally broke down and called Kermit. To prevent him from making me feel like a complete idiot, I went into extensive detail on everything I had checked and done. "Why'd you do all that? Heck, all it sounds like is that the starter is stuck out. Just unbolt the two bolts holding it in place, push the gear back in, and it'll start up good as new." I couldn't even begin to fathom how he knew this would work, but with nothing to lose, I did as he said, and it worked. When I called him back to thank him, he chuckled and asked, "You really a nuclear engineer?"

Several weeks later, the tractor again refused to start, and after verifying everything was it was supposed to be, I called Kermit. What the heck, I figured, he already thinks I'm incompetent; what do I have to lose? "Won't turn over, huh? Sounds like a dead battery to me, Mike." I refused to tell him that the slap he heard was the sound of me hitting my forehead with a board. Since it was Sunday, I was sort of at a loss for what to do next. "No big deal, just jump it from your truck." "But the tractor is a 6-volt system, and my truck is 12 volts." "That's OK. Just touch the leads real fast. It'll work." Completely convinced that I was now the stupidest nuclear engineer on the face of the earth, I proceeded to carry out his directions.

Just like Kermit said, the tractor roared to life when I touched the jumper cable to the tractor ground. However, Kermit failed to warn me that I'd get a lot of sparking, which promptly ignited the gas that was constantly leaking from the gas line. Within seconds, the engine was ablaze, fed by years of grease and oil buildup on its side. Audrey, who had been watering the side garden and watching dispassionately my display of engineering valor, shook her head and with a hint of satire said, "Now tell me they

taught you that trick in the Navy. Now I suppose you'll want to use the hose and interrupt my watering, right?" Refusing to accept her invitation to a debate, I grabbed the hose and quickly put out the fire. As the last of the flames were extinguished, the tractor sputtered and died. I swear I heard it laugh at me.

Determined to win the battle of wills with the tractor, I set about rebuilding or replacing everything I had yet to tinker with, and for a while the



The "Beast"

tractor ran quite well. However, just when I thought I had got the hang of "tractoring," the tractor up and died in the middle of the field. Until that time it had always had the good grace to die near the barn. Dying in the field only added insult to injury, for I now had to figure out how to tow it back to the barn. After watching me mumble and grumble for about two hours, Mr. Orndoff came over and offered a hand. When I explained what had happened, he started to chuckle. "Rebuilt the carburetor, huh? You didn't happen to change the fuel filter while you were at it, did you?" Fuel filter? Fuel filter?! Kermit never told me this thing had a fuel filter! With the confidence that comes from years of farming, Mr. Orndoff pulled out the clogged filter, pressed the start switch, and the tractor returned to life. Later that evening, I received an anonymous call, and while I can't be sure, I swear the laughter on the other end sounded like Kermit Glass's.

Tired of fighting with the tractor and being the laughing stock of the local farmers, I opened peace negotiations with it. Much to the detriment of my ego, I found myself forced to agree to most of the tractor's demands. These included not starting it on days when the temperature is less than 70°, wrapping it with an electric blanket in the winter, feeding it only the finest premium gas, and running it for only three hours at a time. For its part, the tractor agreed to start without support of a battery charger at least 50% of the time and

Furious, I grabbed a gas can with the full intent of burning my nemesis to the ground once and for all. Thankfully, Audrey reminded me that there was an open burning ban in effect and that, while it might make me feel better, she'd take the fine for breaking the burning ban out of my Zurgable allowance. After two stiff gin and tonics, I successfully coaxed the tractor back to life and nursed it back towards the barn and its current resting place.

Since that fateful day, I've been reflecting on what to do with it. The old Navy saying "Run she may, shine she must" seemed to point the way out of my predicament. If the tractor isn't going to run well, it might as well look good. I've therefore decided to have Kermit's grandson, Mike, restore it as close as possible to its original condition, decals and all. When it's finished, I intend to park the tractor before an altar I've made, where I'll sacrifice John Deere tractor parts to it in the hope that it will occasionally start. If that fails, I'll either park it in Audrey's formal garden as a flower stand or donate it to the Lions Club for their Thanksgiving "tractor shoot."

As for cutting the pastures, after six seasons of being jostled about on a rusty metal seat, having exhaust fumes blown in my face, and having my hearing impaired, forget it. Next year I'm tearing out the pastures and replacing them with Astro Turf.

Mike lives with his wife Audrey on their farm east of Emmitsburg, where she has come to the conclusion that his unique ability to color the truth is a direct result of his mother's not having spanked him enough.

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## Getting Your Goat

By Christine Maccabee

"Marie, quick! Circle around and go above her so we can get her between us!" My throat was burning, my legs scratched and bleeding on this hot as Hades goat-chasing day. The young, frightened goat was much faster than I'd ever imagined, but in my determination not to lose her I sped up the mountain, never losing sight of her, running through multiflora and red raspberry bushes as fast as my middle aged legs could manage. The instant the goat escaped it bounded up into our unmowed upper 5 acres which is full of new trees as part of our reforestation project. I remember looking down for a second or two at my poor legs, inappropriately clad in shorts, knowing full well the potential damage to them. But in the heat of the moment and the pressure of the situation, I had no choice but to say, "Legs, move!".....and move they did. Through thick and thin I kept the goat in sight and did not stop for anything. With each quick breath I felt the heat of the day burning my dry, aching throat all the way down into my belabored lungs. I knew I couldn't rest for even a second, for to lose this little one to the Wild would have been a tragedy.

"I know, Mom," shouted Marie, "I'm here!" Even as I'd given the order, Marie was circling above the goat and with some calculated maneuvering and sweet talk in spite of our breathless condi-

tion, we managed to slowly close in on the frightened youngster. With a little gift of grass we lured her closer, and in one swift move captured her!

Now, I don't know if you've ever had such an adventure as this, but if you have, then certainly you know the incredible feeling of relief and exultation one feels when the job is accomplished. I will never forget the



A Dispatch Photo

feeling as I, exhausted and ready to drop, picked up this young goat with my last ounce of strength and held her close to my chest. I'm not certain whose heart was beating faster, hers or mine. Little did I know that day that this very goat - later named Fleetfoot - would bear me two more babies and would become my very best milker. All I knew at that moment was that I'd caught her and my thoughts were less than hopeful, for I truly was a novice, totally inexperienced, and frightened baby goats needed a better enclosure than the one I'd provided.

You see, no one had told me that I had to introduce them to the electric fence enclosure we had built, or how to do it. It wasn't until much later on I learned that the goats should have been held and slowly shown the effects of the shock to their noses so as to develop fear of the fence. I am not ashamed to say that I was ignorant. In fact, if there is anything to be learned from this experience, it is that when it comes to raising ani-

mals, one should never assume that the person you are giving or selling them to knows everything. Never put pride before the welfare of the animals. Giving and receiving advice should be a critical part of every transaction.

So, from that very first day, I learned that raising goats, no matter how few, was not going to be a piece of cake. As for me, it seems Experience was to become the main way I learned my "goatly" lessons. I found that no amount of book reading or even talking with experienced goatherders, could have prepared me for the many experiences I've had with our two goats, Fleetfoot and Fawn. How I managed to evolve from those hours/days of chaos and uncertainty into a life of relative ease and enjoyment is what these Goat Tales is all about.

So stay tuned for more. In the meantime, don't let those little challenges of life get your goat!

## Think Snow

A reminder for all Emmitsburg residents and property owners when a snow emergency is in effect: all parking along East Main Street, West Main Street, Robindale Drive, Provincial Parkway, Zanella Drive, Adams Avenue, Williams Court, and Reeny Circle is prohibited. A snow emergency means the accumulation of snow and/or ice on the streets, roads, and/or designated parking areas in a depth of two or more inches along East and West Main Street within the town's corporate limits, Robindale Drive, Provincial Parkway, Zanella Drive, Adams Avenue, Williams Court, and Renny Circle.

Do not park in these areas until snow and ice has been cleared. The police are authorized to cite or remove vehicles obstructing snow removal. If the snow accumulates after 6 p.m. vehicles will not be towed until after 8 a.m. the following day.

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## Think More Snow

Snow and ice must be removed from sidewalks within 24 hours from the end of a storm. Failure to comply can result in a \$25 fine.



## Mother Seton School

By Val Mentzer

### Candlelight & Holly, 1996

On November 9th at the Eisenhower Inn & Conference Center, Mother Seton School hosted the 13th Annual "Candlelight and Holly Auction." Many, many thanks to all who made this year's auction a great success. Many of the local Frederick County businesses were very generous in donating items, and we thank each and every one of them.

Also, we wish to thank the school families, students, and staff that helped contribute in countless ways. We couldn't have done it without you.

Our special thanks to Mrs. Jayne Richardson, Auction Coordinator. Mrs. Richardson spent countless hours preparing for this event, and her efforts were apparent and appreciated. On behalf of the Mother Seton family, we thank you for your dedication and hard work.

"Punkin' Patch Pickin' with the Young'ns"

Traditionally at Mother Seton School, the eight graders partner up with the first graders and go on a field trip to the Pumpkin Patch. This year, the tradition continues. The students visited Glade Link in New Midway and picked up just the right pumpkin to decorate into a jack-o-lantern. This mentoring program was a fun time for all.

### Mother Seton School Ski Program

Are you ready to hit the slopes? The wintertime fun begins with the ski program at Ski Liberty in Fairfield, Pa. For four to six consecutive weeks beginning on January 8, Ski Liberty will host ski lessons for interested students and family members. A discount is available for those registering by December 1, 1996. Contact Mrs. Smith in the front office for more details.

### Election Results

The students in grades 3 through 8 held a mock election on Friday, November 1. The result were interesting.

Grades 3 - 5:  
Clinton 46  
Dole 45  
Perot 12

Grades 6 - 8  
Dole 38  
Clinton 23  
Perot 14

Overall results  
Dole 83  
Clinton 69  
Perot 26

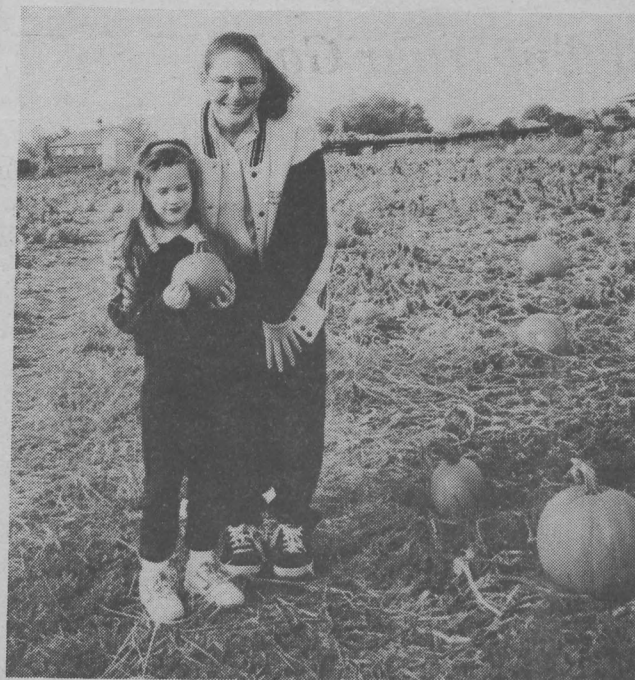
### Christmas Program

Our 1st, 2nd, and 3rd graders will perform this year's Christmas program. The program will be held on December 16 at 10 a.m. in the auditorium. Everyone is welcome.

### HSA Fundraisers

The Mother Seton School Home School Association sponsored two successful fundraisers this fall—the Joe Corbi's Pizza sales and a poinsettia sale. Thanks to all of you who made these fundraisers such a success.

Students in the first grade read *The River*. They were asked to draw pictures and describe what their river would be like. Here are some descriptions of their imaginary My River.



Kristen Rolfs and eighth grader Amanda Hane choose "just the right pumpkin."

"In my river I have crabs. My crabs are red. My river has fish in it. I try and catch the fish." Craig Gunnett

"I have nine fish in my river. My river is beautiful. Many animals drink from my river. Turtles live near my river." Arnie Cerezo II

"My river is so big. You can't see it all. I like to play in it. There are many different kinds of fish. They are very pretty." Katie Grillon

"I like my river. I see fish in the river. My fish all swim. I have many pretty fish." Shelby Rogers.

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## Pre-Kindergarten Program Being Evaluated

The Pre-Kindergarten program at Emmitsburg Elementary School was initiated in 1991 and is currently going through its third reaccreditation process. Local teachers, school officials, and validators from both state and federal levels are initiating a several months' process of evaluating the effectiveness of this program. According to Pre-Kindergarten program director Cathy Perry, "There will be an intensive study of all aspects of the program under state guidelines that include 162 criteria and federal guidelines that list 178 criteria to be evaluated."

Perry spread on the table manuals listing all the criteria to be evaluated. "Our first step is to use these guidelines in a self-evaluation." The self-evaluations are passed along to state and federal validators who review the information and then meet with the local committee to determine strengths and weakness of the program, how we can rectify any problems, and whether we are reaccredited.

"Requirements," "criteria," "regulations," "budgets," "records" are all terms, some intimidating, that evoke thoughts of "the bottom line"—the payoff, the determination of whether the program is justified. "What we are going through is a bit stressful but exciting," said Perry.

A visit to the classroom to watch Cathy Perry, assistant Leslie Burgess, and parent volunteer "Mom of the Morning" Merry Mathews in action

quickly inverted the perception of the process. Reaccreditation is the *top line*, what has to be done to assure that the program makes the "sales," the children's developmental growth possible. The *bottom line*, the real payoff—the hugs, the attentive listening, the tying of shoes, a gentle direction, a passed Kleenex, a resolved conflict, sharing toys, solving a problem, a laugh, a "look," and smiling energetic children—leaves no doubt about the justification and value of the program.

Every day 40 four-year olds, 20 in the morning and 20 in the afternoon, arrive eagerly to be immersed in their "school." "What we emphasize are language experiences, socialization, and pre-readiness," said Perry. Working with the media of fun, games, activities, and rules, the staff focuses on the children's development. They listen to stories, they rhyme, "scribble write" and tell what they have written about. "We show that writing and words and meaning are linked," Perry said. "The kids also learn to work as part of a large group, a small group, and to solve problems, respect differences, and learn ways to resolve problems," she continued. "To get the kids ready for kindergarten experiences, we work on skills such as sorting, counting, color identification, hands on experiences and shape identification."

Presently 10 parents volunteer full time to help in the Pre-K program. Perry said, "They do not have to have



Merry Mathews hosts "Snacks!" during Pre-Kindergarten session.

A Dispatch Photo

any special training...parents help getting snacks together, getting materials ready...helping with "mouse" skills on the computer."

Some parents drop in for an hour or so to be with and work with the children.

Among the volunteers are several dads who come in to play ball and games with the kids and serve as role models. Lynn Miller said he "enjoys the kids and wants to be a part of his daughter Tia's learning." Merry Mathews said, "Working with the children was a good experience....It's something my mother did for me and I want to do for my daughters."

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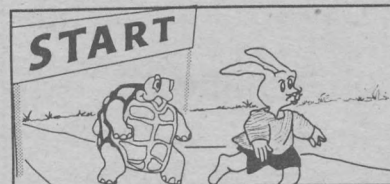
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## Thurmont Community Choir to Perform Handel's Messiah

The Thurmont Community Choir will present *The Messiah* on Dec. 7 at 7:30 at the historic Apples Church in Thurmont. Four professional soloists will perform with the choir. The tenor soloist will be Richard Troxell who grew up in Thurmont and whose voice and acting is winning him national and international acclaim. Troxell has the lead role in the movie version of *Madame Butterfly* which is showing throughout the U.S. Presently he is singing with the Virginia Opera Company in *The Magic Flute*, and in 1997 will appear in the opera *Romeo and Juliet* at the Kennedy Center.

The bass soloist, Daniel May, has performed opera extensively, making his debut with the N.Y. Metropolitan Opera Guild in the role of Basilio in *The Barber of Seville*. He is hailed as a "consummate singing actor with a rich, refined, and cavernous bass voice." The soprano, Rebecca Whitlow, graduated from the Academy of Vocal Arts in Philadelphia, toured Italy in 1996 with the Spoleto Festival Bridge Ensemble, and is at present singing with the Philadelphia Opera Chorus. The alto solos will be sung by Suzanne DuPlantis, who has performed the role of Carmen with many opera companies.

The director of the Thurmont Community Choir is Kelly Cren-

shaw, and the accompanists are Bruce and Christine Maccabee. This is the first year the Thurmont Community Choir has performed. Their debut performance this summer was a Broadway Musical Review,

which was quite successful. The chorus is seeking new members. For more information on becoming a member or on performances, call 416-7313 or 271-2307.

With deepest appreciation for your business and with sincere best wishes for a healthy and happy New Year!

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## Stair Solutions



Ribbon-cutting ceremony celebrating the opening of Stair Solutions. From the left are Jack Lyburn, Director of Carroll County Economic Development; Karen Glass, Vice-president, the Taney Corporation; Joe Haddon, owner of Stair Solutions; Jeff Glass, President, the Taney Corporation; Robert Flickinger, Mayor of Taneytown; Donald Dell, president of Carroll County Commissioners; and George Naylor, president of Taneytown Chamber of Commerce.

## Obituary

### Mrs. Frances Matthews

Mrs. Frances Pauline Matthews, 76, of Kelbaugh Road, Thurmont, died Saturday, Nov. 23, at Gettysburg Hospital, Gettysburg, Pa.

She was the wife of William Joseph Matthews, who died in 1972.

Born Sept. 8, 1920, at Emmitsburg, she was the daughter of the late John B. and Ida Miller Ott.

Mrs. Matthews was preceded in death by a sister, Mary Sutton.

Mrs. Matthews was a lifelong member of St. Anthony's Shrine Parish, Emmitsburg. She was employed as a housekeeper for 40 years by St. Joseph Provincial House.

Surviving are one daughter, Viola Topper of Emmitsburg; three sons, William J. Matthews, Jr. of Thurmont, John R. Matthews of Frederick, and Gary E. Matthews of Emmitsburg; three brothers, Charles Ott and John Ott, both of Emmitsburg, and Lawrence Ott of Thurmont; three sisters, Elizabeth Andrew of Thurmont, Betty Weatherly of Fairfield, Pa., and Doris Asper of Hanover, PA; eight grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

The funeral liturgy was held at St. Anthony's Shrine Parish. Interment in United Brethren Cemetery, Thurmont.


### Stair Solutions

Stair Solutions Design and Distribution Center, located at 115 East Baltimore Street in Taneytown, is now open. Stair Solutions is a full-line distributor of Taney Wood Stairs & Stair Parts. For sale is a complete line of wood stair parts, pre-built rails, straight, circular, and spiral stairs, and factory seconds—all offered at attractive prices. In addition wood stair design and installation services are available.

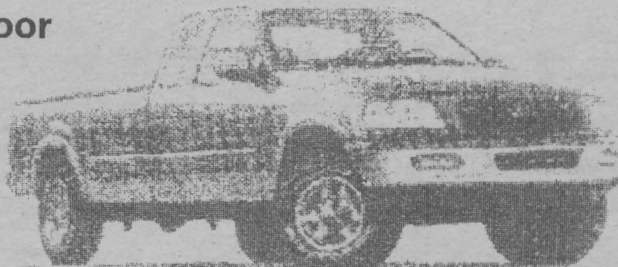
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# CROUSE FORD SALES

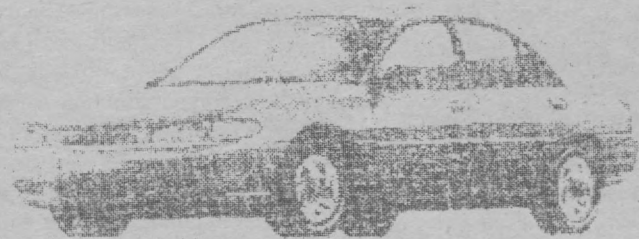
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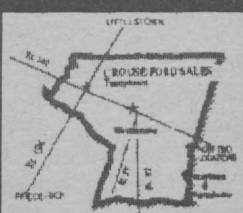


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## Mount's Christmas Calendar of Events

The college's visual and performing arts department is presenting a series of concerts that are free and open to the public

Dec. 6-7 Christmas Concert: Mount Heritage Chorale at Knott Auditorium, 7:30 p.m. each night The choral group will sing parts of Handel's *Messiah* as well as other classical Christmas selections.

Dec. 8 Msgr. Hugh Phillips: Dedication of Statue and Mass, Our Lady of Lourdes Grotto, 4:30 p.m.

Dec. 8 Tree-lighting ceremony 6:00 p.m. at the Science Quad. Pres. Houston will turn on the switch. The ceremony will be accompanied by carols and instrumental music performed by the Mount Heritage Chorale and Pep Band.

Dec. 9. Founder's Day Mass, Awarding Of Founder's Day Medal. Chapel of Immaculate Conception, 4:15 p.m.

Dec. 12 Student Music Recital at Knott Auditorium, 3 p.m. featuring a variety of instrumental numbers, ranging from woodwinds to piano, as well as vocal selections.

Feast Day Mass, Chapel of the Immaculate Conception, 4:30 p.m.

Dec. 15 Christmas Concert: Mount Heritage Chorale at the Chapel of the Immaculate Conception, 7 p.m. The program includes a candlelight procession by the singers, who will perform spiritual and religious music.

## Sunrise Singers-A Taste of Christmas

By Bev Adams

The Sunrise Singers from St. Joseph's Church will present "A Taste of Christmas," a concert of holiday music, on Sunday afternoon, December 15, at 2:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall. The audience will have the opportunity to relax in an informal setting, and holiday refreshments will be available.

The program will feature something for everyone, including such holiday favorites as the Appalachian carol "Jesus, Jesus, Rest Your Head," "Gesù Bambino," Kathy Mattea's "New Kid In Town," and "Silent Night" (with handbell accompaniment). A touch of the classics will be interwoven with Christmas music in such selections as "O Holy Night" with "Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring," "O Little Town of Bethlehem" (based on Bach's "Prelude

in C"), and "The First Noel/Pachelbel's Canon." "Scarborough Carol," in which the lyrics of "Away in a Manger" have been set to the traditional English melody "Scarborough Fair," will feature soprano soloist Linda Bowden. The program will even include several secular tunes of the season, including "It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas," "We Need a Little Christmas," from *Mame* and a '50's style rendition of "Slow Rockin' Christmas."

Admission to the concert is free; however, a free-will offering will be received to support youth activities for the area children. Among these activities is an after-school program, a collaborative effort of CASS, Mount St. Mary's College, Frederick County YMCA, and local community groups.

## What's Cooking...Where's "Food For Thought"?

Food writer George Geralis will resume his column on a bi-monthly schedule in 1997. We look forward to his next tasty recipe and interesting comments.



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## Safe and Sane '97 to Sell Christmas Trees

You can celebrate the holiday season by supporting the Catoctin High School 1997 Safe and Sane Committee's Annual Christmas Tree Sale. The sale begins November 29 at Gateway Farm Market located on Franklinville Rd. just north of Thurmont off Route 15.

Freshly cut Christmas trees on sale to benefit the Class of 1997 will include White Pine, Douglas Fir, Frasier Fir, Blue Spruce, and Norway Spruce. Trees will range in height from 6 to 8 feet. Live trees will also be available. Prices begin at \$20.00.

Stop by Gateway Farm Market from November 29 through December 22, on Friday nights from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m., and Saturdays and Sundays from 9 a.m. until 9 p.m. Parents of seniors will be on hand to help you select and load a beautiful holiday tree and to thank you for supporting this worthy cause. A special thank you to Gateway Farm Market and the Bollinger family for their support of Safe and Sane!

## Farm Family Christmas at the Carroll County Farm Museum

The Carroll County Farm Museum was decorated for a Farm Family's Christmas on Saturday, November 30, and will be open to the public through Sunday, December 8. Hours are Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., and Sunday, noon to 5 p.m. Admission is \$1.00, and children 6 and under are free with a paying adult. The Carroll County Farm Museum is a facility of the Department of Recreation and Parks.

Be sure to visit the Farm Museum during this special time and enjoy the music and atmosphere of the season. Santa visits every day from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. On Saturday evening, candlelit walkways light the way to the decorated farmhouse. The General Store is open and stocked for the holidays. Poinsettias and greenery are for sale in the Administration Building. Gingerbread houses and holiday items will be for sale in the Living History Center. Artisans demonstrate their skills as they were performed in the 1800s. Enjoy a mule-drawn wagon ride and live music of the season.

An assortment of homemade holiday foods will be for sale through Sunday. The fare includes a variety of delicious soups and mouth-watering sandwiches, beverages and desserts including pies, cakes, and rice pudding. For more information, please call 410-876-2667 or 410-848-7775. No pets, please.



## Fresh Water Fish, the Pet

By Jack H. Deatherage, Jr.

Jack III has had several fish he called his own. The first was a Betta that nipped his toddler's fingers. He later picked out Kuhli loaches because they upset his mother with their snake-like appearance. He gets excited when he discovers a loach he bought 3 years ago still alive in some pile of stones. He has occasionally "helped" me with routine maintenance by accidentally spraying water on wall and floor when he was supposed to be refilling a tank. Actually he does help me by getting Wanda mad at him instead of me. (I still get growled at for letting him have the hose.)

When Jack was younger than his present 8 years, he was eager to try everything. He helped net fish doomed to be fertilizer and found their method of demise, as well as their final use, fascinating. Now that he is more in control of himself, he seldom asks to help with the fish. I guess all those "no's" finally turned him to other interests. The seed of the hobby has been planted, though, and I try to keep him interested with some aspect of it. His teacher read one of my articles to his class, and he asked that I write about his "Froggie."

To keep any interest alive—

"Froggie" is one of two African clawed frogs I bought in Randallstown a year ago. Jack became excited about them when I told him they were his. The excitement lasted until he learned he couldn't play with these frogs. (African clawed frogs don't leave the water much. I've know people who've kept them for years and the frogs have never been out of their tanks. I also believe that handling them is not to their benefit.) So Jack has another pet he can't play with.

Last summer, while trying to recall why I was out of bed before 5 a.m., I noticed something like a wet mouse at my feet as I

stood in the bathroom. Turning a light on, I found a frog encased in cat and dog hair. I gave a moment's thought to the possibility that I might have discovered evolution in process. Recalling reality, I took the nearly dead creature back to its tank. The aquarium is a good 20 feet from the toilet which I assume the frog was heading for. How it knew about the bathroom is beyond me. The frogs had not seemed uncomfortable in the tank I had selected for them. Perhaps they were harassed when I wasn't around and one decided to try new waters.

That frog didn't recover from its fur-coated adventure. Its mate (yes I knew they were a mated pair when I bought them; they were obvious about it) later escaped the same tank and was found heading back from "somewhere" to its abandoned home. This frog survived its travels and became "Froggie." It lives today in a 150 gallon stock tank with a handful of peaceful guppies of which it occasionally partakes. Jack wistfully watches "Froggie" from time to time, and I wonder what I should do about pets for this child of mine.

I've been searching for something "hands on." Of course I have to be prepared to take over anything I think Jack III might be interested in, in case he stops caring about it. Wanda reads that as "Jack, Jr. is interested in." Either way, I'll have to change the subject of this column to something closer to : Fresh Water Fish, and Friends.

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Free Dance. Open to the public. The Sons of the American Legion are sponsoring a Dance to be held Dec. 7th, from 8:30 p.m - 12:30 a.m. at the American Legion Post #121.

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