

# The Emmitsburg Regional

## DISPATCH

Vol. V, No 5

Gaining Strength From One Another

May 1997

### Congratulations!



**Helen Reaver (right) receives the Municipal Government Award from Mayor Carr.**  
*A Dispatch Photo*

Helen Reaver, Emmitsburg Town Office receptionist, received Emmitsburg's Municipal Government Award at the public workshop on April 21. In making the presentation to Helen, who has worked for the Town of Emmitsburg for nearly eleven years, Mayor Carr made the following remarks:

"I have known Helen Reaver for close to forty-two years. Her name was Wivell when I first knew her. I can remember at least one breakfast at her childhood home—the eggs, home-cured bacon, fried potatoes, milk, and coffee—and at least a dozen kids all staring at this stranger who smelled like the barnyard. One of those kids was Helen Wivell. She's grown up since then, married Ed Reaver, had 9 children and 15 grandchildren.

"Over the years Helen has never stopped smiling and laughing and being a wonderful person. Those of us who know her and work with her are fortunate to be around her. When we might feel a bit low or depressed, just being around Helen gives us a lift. She has been known to soothe the anger of even the most upset and irate person. She has

an incredible way of making people feel appreciated and welcomed. Those who meet her for the first time often remark on her pleasantness, her smile, her laughter, and her willingness to help.

"Helen's kindness and easy nature has been very much appreciated by our residents and visitors to Emmitsburg. As testimony, there are an incredible number of cards and letters of appreciation in her three-inch personnel file.

"Helen has worked hard to learn new skills and take on additional projects. Two years ago, it would have taken a crowbar to get her away from her typewriter! Now, she uses the once-feared computer on a continual basis and the typewriter is no longer on her desk!

"The Town of Emmitsburg has been truly fortunate to have such a great person working on the staff. We look forward to another eleven years!

"Helen, please accept this token of the town's recognition. The Emmitsburg Municipal Government Award is an excuse to tell you how much we, the council, myself, your fellow employees, and the citizens of Emmitsburg appreciate you, and to tell you what a great person you are!

### PHIL POSTELLE WINS COUNCIL SEAT

On April 21, Emmitsburg elected Phil Postelle to be the new town commissioner. Of the approximate 1,000 registered voters, 160 voted in the election.

Mr. Postelle received 59 votes defeating the incumbent Tom Gingell and Duane Pilch, a newcomer to the area. Pilch received 56 votes and Commissioner Gingell followed with 45 votes. He will serve a three-year term and will be sworn in at the May 5 Town Meeting.

"I'm really pleased and looking forward to my term in office," Mr. Postelle said. "I think I have some things to offer. I took advantage of the tour of the water treatment plant held during Municipal Government Week. Water is the most vital resource we have and the key to further growth."

Mr. Postelle said he hopes that within 6 months Emmitsburg will have additional ground water and can begin issuing more water taps.

Postelle said he would also be working on an immediate project to have a repres

entative from Emmitsburg appointed to the Frederick County Board of Education. There are two vacancies at the moment and nominations must be in by early May. A decision will be announced June 30.

"We desperately need representation from Emmitsburg", he said. "The school board owns 20 acres in Emmitsburg and they need to know how we feel about the expansion of our elementary school and the building of a new middle school here. Their plans call for new schools to be built in Thurmont. We want our young children to go to school here."

The newly elected commissioner said that he thought candidate Duane Pilch deserves a lot of credit for the way he developed a large number of votes in a short time and hopes that Mr. Pilch will continue to be involved in the town's government.

### St. Anthony's Celebrates 100th Anniversary

By Ann Marshall

Just about 100 years ago, parishioners at St. Anthony Shrine near Emmitsburg were deciding what to place in the cornerstone of their new church. According to church records, the cornerstone was laid on May 2, 1897, containing "rare coins and some new coins dated 1897, names of subscribers, copies of the *Catholic Mirror* and the *Emmitsburg Chronicle*."

On Sunday, May 4 at 3 p.m., as part of its year-long 100th Anniversary celebration, St. Anthony's will fill a new time capsule with memorial items and will plant a red maple tree on church grounds. Items for the time capsule include an anniversary booklet, a large composite picture of historical

church buildings, and sill sitters of the church, the church hall and office, the "Little Red School House," and the "Old Church on the Hill." The latter was destroyed by fire on July 4, 1913.

Items for the time capsule will be presented during the ceremony by the children of the Centennial First Communion Class. Their names and group picture, as well as those of the 1997 Confirmation Class, will be part of the record sealed into the capsule. Other items will be programs and newspaper publicity from anniversary events and a boxed set of 1997 coins. The capsule was provided by Skiles Funeral Home.

"The Old Church on the Hill," which is represented in the memorial items, no

**Please see CHURCH on page 3.**



## Letters To The Editor

### ARE WE GOOD SPORTS?

As President of the Emmitsburg Little League organization, I would like to voice my thoughts on the subject of sportsmanship. One of the main objectives of the Little League system is to teach our youth sportsmanship. The dictionary defines sportsmanship as 1) skill and fondness for sports and 2) qualities and behavior befitting a sportsman.

I have been involved with organized baseball for at least 25 years now, and one area that always stands out in a season is a lack of good sportsmanship by a few individuals. It takes only a few to disrupt a game. As leaders, parents, and spectators we must be good role models for our youth. We must remember that whatever we say and do around the very young makes a big impression on them and they like to imitate what they see adults doing. We should make sure that our behavior is

setting a good example for our youth. Sometimes we get so wrapped up in winning the game that we take away the fun that it is meant to be.

We should also support the umpires—whether or not we agree with their decisions. The umpires are volunteers who give of their time in order for the game even to be played. Without umpires there would be no baseball! The umpires do their best to be fair and want to help the Little League organization by giving of themselves. They need your support and encouragement as much as the kids do.

Let's have a good 1997 season by working together for the betterment of our youth. So, come on out, have fun, and cheer for your team!

Bill Wivell, President  
Emmitsburg Little League

### ROCKY RIDGE GIRL SCOUT EARNS RELIGIOUS RECOGNITION

Did you know that Girl Scouts also earn religious recognitions?

Lindsey Greene, a Cadette Girl Scout from Rocky Ridge, recently received a religious recognition. Having worked on the many requirements and many more hours of volunteer work for over a year, we were very proud to have our preacher present her with this pin on Girl Scout Sunday.

Through working on this recognition, she has learned about her church, how she can serve her church and community, and how her church can serve her.

We would like to thank our preacher Rosemary Maxey from Mt. Tabor

United Church of Christ, for helping Lindsey with the requirement for this recognition. On Girl Scout Sunday, Lindsey presented Rev. Maxey with a bouquet of daisies as a thank you gift. She chose daisies because they are the Girl Scout flower.

As her parents we feel it's important for our young people in the church to know the workings of the church and not just to show up on Sunday morning and all the details are taken care of. Someone has to be responsible for taking care of those details. This recognition has allowed Lindsey to learn a lot of this. She has grown in her responsibilities and takes part in the service more now.

Curtis and Shirley Greene  
Rocky Ridge

## Ambulance Company to Demonstrate Emergency Readiness

Members of the Emmitsburg Ambulance Company will celebrate National Emergency Medical Services Week May [], with a combined demonstration and informational program.

Featured in this year's program will be rescue demonstrations from a simulated airplane crash and a "high-angle-pick-off" used to rescue climbers and

hikers.

There will be blood pressure screenings, first aid and CPR demonstrations and a K-9 unit from the Frederick County Sheriff's Department.

Residents are urged to become more familiar with the broad range of technical services available by local volunteers.

## Town Meeting

Several Emmitsburg residents brought their concerns to the board of commissioners at the April 7 Town Meeting.

Duane Pilch asked the town council to consider allowing any resident of Emmitsburg the right to register another resident for voting. When he was campaigning for the commissioner's seat in the recent election he was told he could not do so. He stated that in Frederick County any resident can register another resident.

Commissioner Benvengi and Mayor Carr stated they could not make a motion at this time. The town lawyer is putting together information about this issue and it will be addressed at the April 21 workshop. [The issue was tabled at the April workshop until the May 5 town meeting.]

Joan Boyle stated that it was wonderful to hear that something was being done about the widening of East Lincoln Avenue. She then asked what the Fund Raising Committee for the renovation of the Community Center was doing. Mayor Carr stated there had been no active meetings recently. The town qualifies for a CDBG loan and he said he hoped the loan would be considered the Town's share of the cost for the renovation. Ms. Boyle asked that a financial report from the committee be given each month as part of the treasurer's report.

Ms. Boyle also asked the commissioners to hold a Public Meeting to address the rumor that Emmitsburg Elementary School children might be taken to Thurmont schools as our schools become overcrowded. Mayor Carr stated they had not heard anything definite on this subject, but that they are going to have a delegation meet with the County about this concern in May. The council said they would consider holding a Public Meeting.

David Little and Ken Howard of East Main Street registered complaints about unseemly behavior on the part of several persons in the parking lot of the Gourmet Grill. Little stated that he had to take his son back into the house. Howard stated that young people were drinking beer in the parking lot all afternoon and this behavior is forbidden by the county liquor laws. Both residents called for further investigation and action on the incident.

The Gourmet Grill was hosting a "social" for college students attending a rugby tournament at Mount St. Mary's College. There was a security agent on duty inside the building and when notified of incidents in the parking lot both the owner, Bob Fritts, and town Deputy Jeff Bartlett patrolled the scene. When advised of the incidents the "social" was cancelled. No charges were filed.

## ORDINANCE 97-03 UP FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

At its June 2 Town Meeting the commissioners will hear public comment on the proposed changes to Ordinance 97-03 entitled Public Peace, Morals and Welfare. It has been commonly referred to as the "noise ordinance."

Following are extracts from the proposed ordinance showing changes (indicated in capital letters) in the new version. Residents are urged to go to the town office to obtain or read a full copy of this important document.

Disturbing the Peace  
UNREASONABLY LOUD  
NOISES PROHIBITED from 11  
p.m. until 7:30 a.m.

ENUMERATION OF  
PROHIBITED NOISES. HORNS,  
SIGNaling DEVICES, ETC.; The  
use of Jake Brakes to be deleted;  
THE USE OF RADIOS AND PHONO-  
GRAPHS.- USING IN SUCH A  
MANNER AS TO DISTURB THE  
PEACE, QUIET, AND COMFORT  
OF THE NEIGHBORING INHABI-  
TANTS. USE OF THE DEVICE IN  
SUCH A MANNER THAT IS AUDI-  
BLE AT A DISTANCE OF FIFTY

(50) FEET SHALL BE PRIMA-FA-  
CIE EVIDENCE OF A VIOLATION.  
NOISES RESULTING FROM  
AUTHORIZED EMERGENCY VE-  
HICLE IS NECESSARY FOR THE  
SAFETY OF THE PUBLIC IN  
TIME OF EMERGENCY.

NON-AMPLIFIED SOUND  
EMANATING FROM DULY LI-  
CENSED AND/OR AUTHORIZED  
ATHLETIC CONTESTS, PA-  
RADES, AND MUNICIPALLY  
SPONSORED PUBLIC CELEBRA-  
TIONS.

PENALTIES:  
EACH VIOLATION SHALL BE  
CONSIDERED A SEPARATE AND  
DISTINCT VIOLATION.

ANY VIOLATION OF THE PRO-  
VISIONS OF THIS ORDINANCE,  
AS DETERMINED BY A LAW EN-  
FORCEMENT OFFICE, SHALL BE  
DEEMED A MISDEMEANOR  
AND SHALL BE subject to two (2)  
warnings and then shall be PUNISH-  
ABLE BY A FINES NOT EXCEED-  
ING \$500 AT THE DISCRETION  
OF THE TOWN.



## Town News

At the April 21st public workshop-Streets and Transportation Commissioner Rosario Benevengi announced that recent discussion with the Daughters of Charity could lead to widening of Lincoln Avenue East.

Negotiations focused on deeding a 10-ft-wide strip of property on the south side of Lincoln Avenue to the town for the purpose of improving the street. Five feet of the strip would be used to widen the roadway and 5 ft. to install a sidewalk.

In returning for deeding the property to the town, the Daughters would receive certain improvements to the school property between the strip and the playground. Improvements would include replacing a tree and relocating the fence along the school property.

Yvette Semler, town manager, estimated that the project would cost approximately \$140,000 plus an additional \$30,000 for the sidewalk. The commissioners voted 3-1 to proceed with the project negotiations,

search for funding, and place the project in the town's Capital Improvement Budget.

The town's voter registration process came under scrutiny. Questions raised by Duane Pilch, a candidate for commissioner in the recent election, led to a call to examine the process and bring it more in line with county procedures. Action on forming a Registration Committee was postponed until the next meeting to give time to study the county procedures and draft proposed changes to the registration procedures.

In other business a 180-day extension was granted to Northgate Home Owners Association to finish repairs on curbing. The repairs are located in a construction area and would not be feasible at this time.

A revised version of the town's Noise Ordinance was presented to the commissioner for further review. Discussion of this ordinance is scheduled for the June 3rd town meeting. A copy of this ordinance is on page 2.

## SLOGAN WINNERS

By Dianne Walbrecker

The votes are in. Emmitsburg's Economic Renewal Committee asked readers for a descriptive slogan or motto that would describe the heart or spirit of Emmitsburg in 4 to 7 words. Citizens and those living outside the town responded wholeheartedly. All in all, 39 slogans were submitted for consideration. People from Pennsylvania, Hagerstown, and the Baltimore area sent in their suggestions: a clue that Emmitsburg is loved by more than just its residents. The top three slogans (and their authors) are

listed below. The first place winner receives a dinner for two at the Pasta Factory in Emmitsburg. Congratulations to the winners and thanks to all of you who participated.

First Place, by Robert F. Gauss: A Historic Mason Dixon Line Community

Second Place, by Chata Carr: Where the Past and Future Live in Harmony

Third Place, by George M. Lenz: A Small Town with a Big Heart

### CHURCH from page 1

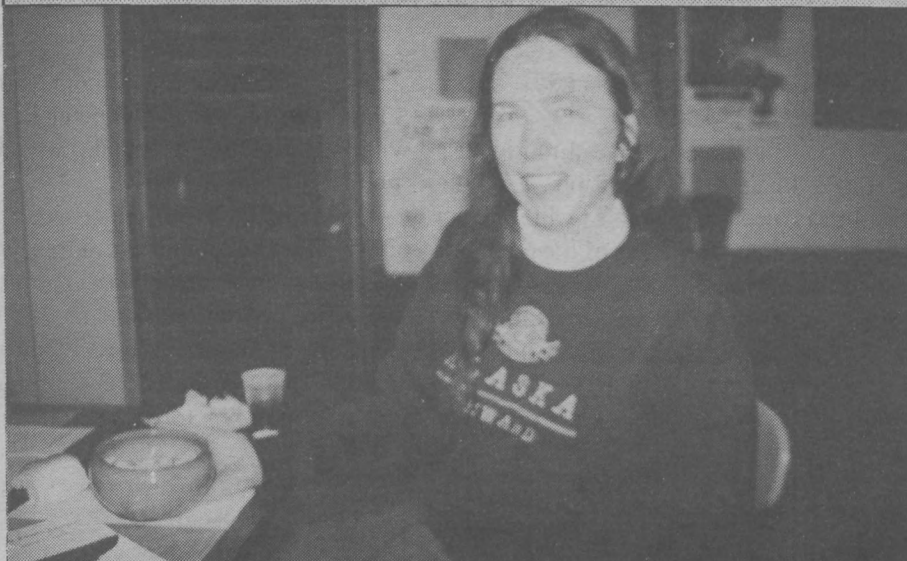
longer exists. Also known as St. Mary's Church, it was the first home of the congregation. It was built in 1805 when Rev. John DuBois, founder of Mount St. Mary's College, was pastor. It stood at the entrance to the Grotto of Lourdes on the site now occupied by the Pangborn Campanile. After St. Anthony Shrine was built, the old church was used only on special occasions such as May Day.

Father Leo Tittler, pastor of St. Anthony's, will emcee the anniversary

event. The maple tree, donated by Mary Catherine Shields and Mary Shields, will be planted by the members of the Centennial Confirmation Class. Ralph Snyder, president of the pastoral council, will supervise the placement of a stone marker which has been donated by Gilland Memorials of Blue Ridge Summit, Pa. The program includes a poem read by Joseph Scott and music by the parish choir.

Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament will conclude the ceremony. Light refreshments will be served in the parish hall. All are welcome.

## Empty bowls fill need



Dina Aiken of Sabillasville has filled her bowl with some of the ethnic rice dishes served at the "Empty Bowls" banquet held April 2, 1997, at Catoctin High School. "Empty Bowls" is an international program designed to increase awareness of hunger and to raise money for local charities. A Dispatch Photo

The first "Empty Bowls" banquet held by Catoctin High School and its feeder schools raised over \$600 for the Catoctin Community Agency School Services (CASS) program. The money will be used by CASS to assist local families with emergency needs.

For a \$5 donation the participants received a hand-crafted clay bowl made by students from the Emmitsburg, Lewistown, Sabillasville and Thurmont elementary schools. They then could fill their bowls with a selection of rice dishes prepared by the students assisted by cafeteria workers from each of the schools. The multicultural theme of the banquet was enhanced by the serving of rice dishes from India, Haiti,

Barbados, China, Puerto Rico, Italy, Vietnam and Germany. Bread and dessert were also served.

Placemats made by the school children decorated the tables in the cafeteria and the Thurmont High School Jazz Band serenaded the more than 200 people attending the event. The Thurmont Middle School Drama Troop presented a skit, "Everybody Cooks Rice," and local musicians Christine Maccabee and Slim Harrison performed during the evening.

April Wells, service learning coordinator for Catoctin High School, said she was impressed by the turnout and hopes to hold another "Empty Bowls" banquet next year.

Give Mom  
the gift that will  
bloom forever.

Mother's Day is Sunday May 11.

Teleflora's rose garden teapot bouquet features beautifully fresh flowers in a distinctive teapot.

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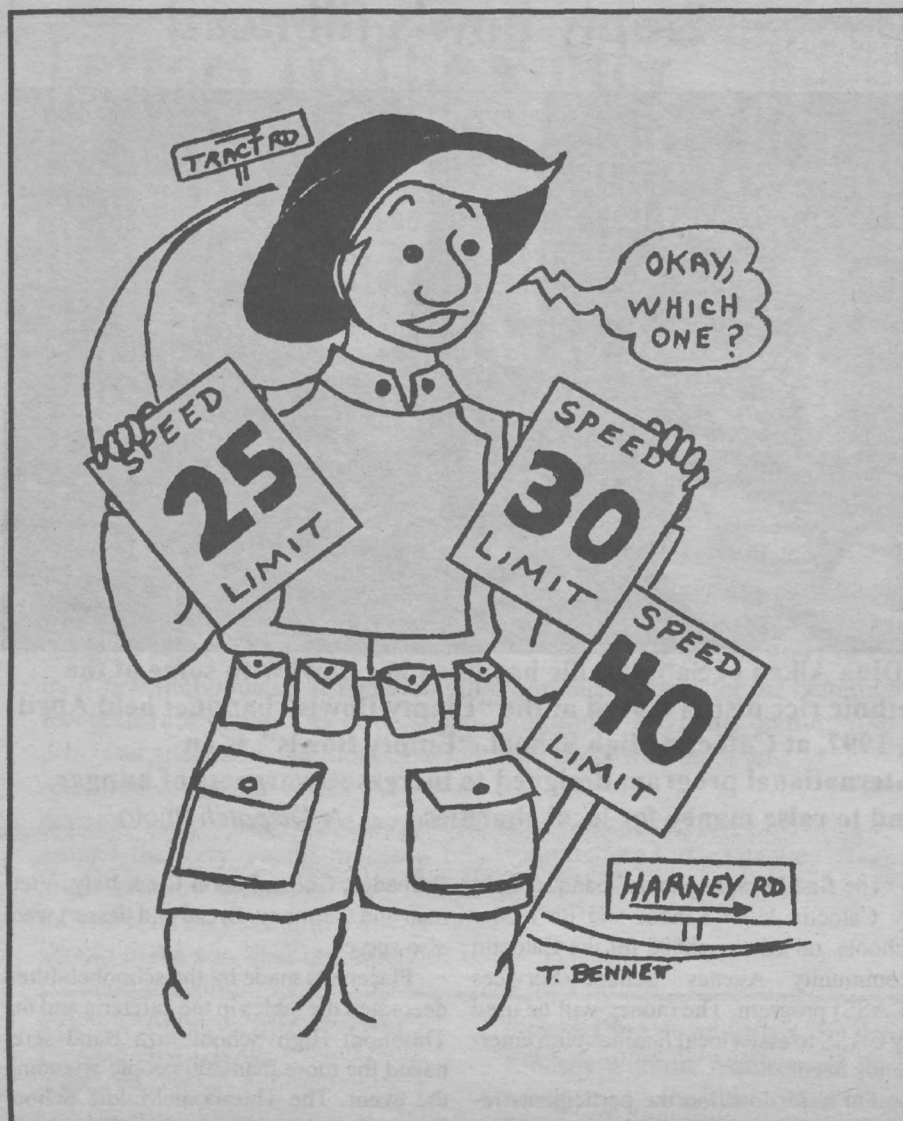
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Normal hours: Monday- Friday 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Saturday 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

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200 S. Seton Avenue, Emmitsburg, MD







## The Emmitsburg Regional Dispatch

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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.

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## Town Speed Limit at Issue

The Streets and Transportation Committee members are conducting a poll of the community to determine the residents' preferences on the speed limit through town.

Members reported that so far public opinion is running in a 50/50 ratio on the issue of retaining the present 25 mph speed limit or changing it to 30 mph.

One committee member reported that when discussing the proposal several residents did not want to commit themselves or sign any survey sheet.

In other business the committee was requested to consider signs mounted on parking meters adjacent to intersections of alleys and main street. Their purpose would be to prevent trucks and vans from parking too close to alleys and limiting visibility of exiting cars. It was found that the street markings were not up to code (several being less than the required 20 feet.) A motion was made to request that the town bring street markings up to local and county ordinances.

## 100 Years Ago "In this place" from the Emmitsburg Chronicle

### Town Election

May 7, 1897 - The annual election for a Burgess and six commissioners to manage the corporation affairs for the ensuing year, was held at the Firemen's Hall, in this place, on Monday, between the hours of 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. Although very little interest was taken in the election, on one of the tickets there were fifteen candidates. Sixty-nine votes were polled, being 20 less than was cast at last Spring's election.

### Lots of Music

May 7, 1897 - On Thursday evening of last week two men with an automatic piano furnished the music loving people of Emmitsburg with a variety of music. On the following day - Friday - there were two different men with hand organs in town gathering up the loose pennies that the piano men failed to secure. Lots of music for two days.

**St. Anthony's Cornerstone**  
May 7, 1897 - Last Sunday was a

gala-day at Mt. St. Mary's and almost two thousand people honored the occasion by their presence. It was the largest gathering ever seen in this neighborhood. The spectacle which called them together will long remain a pleasant remembrance in the minds of all. The object of this great assembly was to assist in the blessing and laying of the cornerstone of the new church, which the members of the congregation are erecting to the honor and glory of God.

### The Soap Swindler

May 14, 1897 - There is a man traveling through the country selling soap who uses a scheme to create a demand for his goods. He alleges that there is another man who represents his company that will follow in a few days distributing rugs to customers who purchase \$1 worth of soap. He makes a sale of five bars for one dollar, issues a coupon for the rug, but the rug fails to come. If he comes this way let him go.

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301-447-2222

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### - Commercial -

1. **Emmitsburg Main St.**, Storefront and Showroom, office, Workroom, 2 apts. Income producing property, Great Location \$189,900
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Crystal L. Gauss Broker

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### VACATION RENTALS

- Ocean City, Maryland:**  
Condos - 2 & 3 bedrooms, near Boardwalk, 1 w/pool. Sleeps 6-8. Some summer weeks still available.

### SPECIAL PROPERTY FOR SALE

- 24 +/- Acres w/restored Log House, pond and w/ streams. Lots of woods. Plenty of charm. Can be subdivided. Call Crystal for more details. Owner/Broker.

Crystal Valley Realty has had many requests from people interested in relocating to the Emmitsburg area. If you are thinking of selling your home or land, call our office for quick, efficient service.

Emmit House 601 W. Main St., PO Box 128 FAX 301-447-3158



## New Development Officer Comes to the Provincial House

Miss Gwen Golish is the new development person for the Daughters of Charity, Southeastern Province, headquartered in Emmitsburg. A native of Westchester, Pa., currently living in Lancaster, Mrs. Golish assumed her duties approximately three months ago. She is relocating to the local area.



Gwen Golish

Her career in fundraising and development activities began 13 years ago when she served as a volunteer Regional Coordinator for the Muscular Dystrophy Association. Gwen has also held several leadership and managerial positions for other non-profit agencies including The American Red Cross and Easter Seals. Previously, Golish was Development Director for Resurrection Schools in Lancaster, Pennsylvania.

During her first month at the Provincial House, Miss Golish has spent time meeting the sisters throughout the region who directly serve the poor. Golish states, "The needs of the poor are so diverse and in great numbers. Most people do not understand how the sisters can begin to meet those needs. My goal is to educate the public on what the sisters do, how they determine a need and to enlighten the public on the uniqueness of the Provincial House. The sisters are educated and very astute business women. The Daughters are dynamic in managing resources to provide needed services now in operation. These include soup kitchens, medical clinics, schools, social outreach, and ministry. New projects are constantly being researched and developed, mature projects are transferred to other service providers and projects are regularly being evaluated to see if they are still vital. I plan to raise development dollars to allow the sisters to continue to serve the poor. Raising those dollars is an important part of my effort."

The Daughters of Charity have been characterized as "Ordinary Women on an Extraordinary Mission." Miss Golish has joined the extraordinary mission and taken on the challenging task of ensuring that their mission has enough financial support to succeed.



"Veggie Annie" serves Andrew Bauerline of Gettysburg her savory baked tofu at the Lions Health Fair.

A Dispatch Photo

## Lions Club Health Fair a Success

The Emmitsburg Lions Club reports that the recent Health Fair was very successful. Two hundred four people participated, with 182 blood tests given.

The Lions wish to thank the following for their support: The Gettysburg Hospital, Mother Seton School (building use), the Carriage House (volunteers' lunch), Emmitsburg Ambulance Corps, John C. Hagemann, D.C., Scott Henry, D.P.M., Edward

Sauble, Jr., OPT, Richard Kelley, D.D.S., CPI Printing (equipment), F & M Bank (pens), Jubilee Foods (doughnuts), Medicine Plus Pharmacy (supplies), Mt. St. Mary's College (equipment), Ott House (vision machine rental), Rutter's (orange juice), Villa St. Michael (wheelchair), Zurgable Brothers (misc. equipment), and other screening personnel and volunteers, as well as all exhibitors.

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PURCHASE ANY 2 DINNERS  
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Emmitsburg, Maryland 21727



## Senior Citizen News

By Anna Margaret Martin

The April showers have brought the May flowers. They are beginning to appear. Enjoy them!

The Seniors enjoyed their recent trip to the Rainbow Theater in Paradise, Pa. Forty-two seniors made the trip.

Our evening card party was a success and the next will be held on June 25th. Plan now to come and enjoy the evening with us.

Activities for May are as follows:

**May 1 & 15** - Bingo, 1 p.m.

**May 8, 22, & 29** - "500" Card Party, 1 p.m. (Please sign up to play.)

**Tuesday, May 13** - Frederick Shopping, 1:15 p.m.

**Tuesday May 20** - Meeting Day and Blind Bingo

**Tuesday, May 27** - In honor of Older Americans Month we will have a guest speaker talking about "Hearty Snacks for Seniors." Come for lunch and stay for the fun.

On **Saturday, May 17**, there will be a "Yard and Food Sale" at the Senior Center - all inside. Come, see, and buy. Time 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. There will be bargains for all.

The Senior Center is open 5 days weekly, from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Lunch is available at 12 noon each day for anyone 60 years of age and older. Transportation is available and also home delivers meals when approved by the Commission on Aging. Lunch reservations are a must, 24 hours in advance. Come join us for food, fellowship, and fun. Call Anna Margaret at (301) 447-6253 for information.

### Emmitsburg Lions Club

is sponsoring its famous  
**CHICKEN BARBECUE**

**Saturday, May 17**  
11:00 a.m. till....

This barbecue will benefit  
the William Topper Medical  
Fund

Location: S. Seton Ave.  
at US 15. (across the  
street from Getty Mart.)

## Sites to visit on the Internet

By Amy Schildwachter

Have you heard of the Internet, but don't know how or where you can access it? You can gain free access to the Internet, either in the Frederick County Public Libraries or from your home computer with a modem, through the SAILOR project of the Maryland Libraries. If you think that the Internet has nothing to offer you, think again. In today's world, we are beginning to see the World Wide Web (WWW) addresses listed in many place—magazines, newspapers, and television, to name a few. Exploring these sites can provide hours of fun and also give you useful information such as stock prices, phone numbers, and the local weather.

If you are planning a trip you might want to visit a web site called Tripquest, which will give you detailed directions to your destination. The web address is <http://www.tripquest.com>.

To find the phone number of a long-lost friend or business in another city, you might want to try an internet telephone directory. Switchboard is a white-pages directory and Bigbook is a yellow pages directory. Their addresses are: <http://www.switchboard.com> and <http://www.bigbook.com>.

Searching through cookbooks for a particular recipe may not be your cup of tea. You might try the Searchable Online Archive of Recipes (SOAR). The address is

<http://www.soar.berkeley.edu/recipes>.

Looking for a job? Get some help from the internet. You might want to try Maryland Job search or America's Job Bank, both of which advertise job openings. Their addresses are <http://jobsearch.org> and <http://ajb.dni.us>.

A site where you can explore many topics is Pathfinder. This site will give you links to information on such topic as the weather, parenting and child development, *Sports Illustrated* online and stock quotes. The address is <http://www.pathfinder.com>.

Besides serious useful information, the Internet has many fun sites containing whimsical information. Check out the Official French Fry Page. Its address is <http://select-ware.come/fries>.

For more information on how to access these sites or how to access SAILOR from home visit or call the Emmitsburg Branch of the Frederick County Public Libraries at (301) 447-2682.

They say it's spring  
the groundhog saw his shadow  
we survived the Ides of March and  
April  
fools have fallen on their faces but  
cold persists with chilling winds and  
frost  
piercing is the word!  
And yet  
they say it's spring  
how could they  
when the robins huddle  
the bluejays squawk and  
awkward cardinals flit?

The calendar and the weatherman  
they say it's spring  
what do they know  
how do they know  
did they step out and feel  
the stabbing breeze or  
brave the icy blasts  
driving from nor' east and west?

Alas, at length  
warm weather will arrive  
long enough for us  
to forget the lingering wiles of  
winter  
while preparing for summer's  
steamy sweat.

- Olaf 4/18/96

## Community Day Dates Announced

At its April 24 meeting the Emmitsburg Lions Club unveiled plans for the 14th Annual Community Day activities to be held on July 4, 1997. (Raindate will be July 5.) "We haven't been rained out yet," said Lion Gene Rosensteel.

Committee chairmen reported that arrangements have been made for a full day of activities including chicken barbecue, demonstrations, and games for all ages. This year the festivities will include country music in the afternoon as well as preceding the fireworks. "The fireworks display is one of the best in the area," said Lion Herb Gingell. The Lions are still accepting donations to underwrite this year's display.



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## People in the news

### Lori Angleberger To Dance at King's Dominion



**Lori Angleberger**  
Photo courtesy Sky View Photos

Lori Angleberger will be performing as a dancer at Paramount's King's Dominion in Richmond, Va, during the 1997 season. She will appear in the show, *RetroActive*, at the Paramount Theater. *RetroActive* captures an eclectic mix of music and highlights from the '70's and early '80's. When the park opens for its summer season, the show is scheduled to run four times a day, seven days a week.

Lori's first performance at the park was in 1994, where she was a dancer in the show, *Rock the House*. In 1996, Lori was selected again to perform at the park. During that season, she was a dancer in two magic shows: *Illusions* and *The Time Traveler*. In addition, Lori was a character in the children's show, *Beach Blanket Bedrock*.

Currently, Lori is a dance instructor for Frederick County Parks & Recreation. She has conducted hip-hop funk workshops for teens as well as teaching classes in ballet and jazz. However, her latest local involvement centers around the T.J. High School's spring musical, *1940's Radio Hour*. Lori helped bring to the T.J. stage the dancing styles of the '40's.

As a student of the Debora Lewis Dance Studio in Thurmont since age 4, Lori has taken classes in ballet, tap, jazz, and lyrical. In recent years, she has enjoyed teaching classes at the studio.

Lori is a 1992 graduate of Catoclin High School and a 1996 graduate of Mount Saint Mary's College. Presently, she is a first-year student at the University of Maryland School of Social Work in Baltimore. She is the daughter of Carl & Jeanne Angleberger of Rocky Ridge.

### Valentine Promoted to Director of MSM Physical Plant



**Phil Valentine**

Phil Valentine of Emmitsburg has been named director of the physical plant at Mount Saint Mary's College and Seminary. He had held the position on an interim basis since December. The physical plant at the college is responsible for all maintenance, plumbing, electrical, and other day-to-day operations of the campus.

A Mount employee since 1988, Valentine had been assistant director before becoming interim director.

"Phil's management and organizational skills have really impressed me," said Jack Topper, vice president for finance and administration at the Mount. "We've got a guy here who has really done a bang-up job for us."

Topper said that he was happy to promote from within the college community. He added that he had received many positive comments about Valentine's performance from all corners of the campus.

Valentine himself said the job is not too different from what he was doing before—except for a lot more responsibility.

"I'm just looking forward to the chance to make changes in places I can," said Valentine, "and try to make things the way they are a little better."

Valentine lives in Emmitsburg with his wife Millie, who is the manager of accounts receivable in the Mount's finance office, and his son, David Jason.

### Studio Gallery Features Works of Rena Damskey



The Studio Gallery in Emmitsburg is pleased to feature the works of artist and craftsman Rena Damskey during the month of May.

The show will be hung on May 1. A reception will be held on Sunday, May 4, from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m., to introduce the artist. The public is invited.

Rena Damskey is one of the founding members of Studio Gallery since it became a cooperative six months ago. Everyone has been delighted with her imaginative works. She produces lovely peaceful watercolors and fanciful crafts using objects and products found on the Rocky Ridge farm she shares with her husband and daughter. Recently she has branched out to accept commissions doing wall murals, using photographs of her own dining room as a model.

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## SNAKES ALIVE!

By Jack Deatherage, Jr.

What do Tiger, Wolf, and Bear Cub Scouts play with? Corn and King snakes, of course!

The April 7th (first Monday of the month) pack meeting, held at the Emmitsburg Elementary School, opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. Meanwhile, Joe Taylor of Gettysburg, Pa., prepared a table to display his passion—snakes.

As the children surrounded the aquariums holding the snakes and one lizard, a "bearded dragon," the questions started flying. Den leader John Gregorowicz restored order and had the kids take turns.

"What do they eat?" *Baby mice and grown mice.* "How often do they eat?" *Once a week.* "How often do they make a mess?" *Once a week.* "Do they bite?" *The babies might because they aren't used to being handled; they still act on instinct.* "How big do they get?" *The corn snakes reach about 30 inches.* "Can we hold the King snake?" *No, she has been bred this spring. I brought her so you could see the differences between King and Corn snakes.* "Are all these different snakes Corn

snakes?" (There were half a dozen snakes of widely varying colors and patterns.) *Yes, they are all Corn snakes. They could mate with each other and have babies, except these snakes here are all males. The females have been bred and I couldn't bring them.* "How many snakes do you have?" *I have over 140 different species in my bedroom. I keep my breeders in a friend's basement.*

And so it went for about 15 minutes. Then out came the snakes. Every child got to hold a 30" Corn snake. Some of the kids wore grins that threatened to split their faces. One younger boy shook so badly that he looked as if he would drop the snake, but he was determined that he would have *his* turn with these beautiful creatures.

Mr. Taylor theorized that we are taught to fear snakes. He might be right: there were few parents anywhere near the table of snakes. Mr. Taylor explained that he refused to charge for showing his animals to groups of children. His reward was teaching people that snakes are not evil or nasty creatures—neither slimy nor treacherous. He also feels the snake is *the* pet of today's children.



Photo Courtesy Jack Deatheridge

The snakes do not need constant care. Feed them, provide suitable living areas, and they are content. Snakes don't have to be walked, don't chew up or scratch the furniture, never need a good soapy bath, don't shed hair all over the house, occupy only the space taken up by a 10-gallon aquarium (a 20-gallon "long" would be better, though), never bark or meow, nor do they require rabies shots or yearly trips to the vet.

Corn snakes and most others eat baby mice and will eventually eat adult mice. If you can't keep the rodents, you have to buy them from someone. Some children might find

it difficult to feed "baby" mice to snakes. A snake may not be the "perfect" pet for them.

Joe Taylor can be reached by calling (717) 334-0869. He also writes an article on reptiles for *Our Animal Friends*, a free pet newsletter distributed throughout Adams County, Pa. He shows his snakes and lizards to prospective buyers by appointment only. He can be contacted at the same number to arrange a presentation of reptiles for educational purposes. Give him a call; he is in love with his snakes and shows it in his eagerness to answer questions from one and all.

## Spring Happenings with GS Troop 1088

We in Cadette Troop 1088 have been very productive lately. We have done things such as a Cookie Booth Sale, a Pampered Chef demonstration to help with the Creative Cooking Badge, and a play on Girl Scout Sunday at Mt. Tabor United Church of Christ in Rocky Ridge.

In March some of our girls attended an Outdoor Survival Simulation with a Senior troop from Frederick and came back with sunburns. Two girls also completed their Program Aid Training and are ready to help with any Brownie or Daisy troop in the area.

In the future, we plan to accomplish many intriguing challenges. We are planning to attend a sleepover at the Weinburg Center and watch a dress rehearsal of *Guys and Dolls*. Endless Summer RV's has asked us to serve hot dogs and sodas at their

open house on May 3 and 4. Over the summer we will travel to the beach at Cape Henlopen in Delaware for a few days. A trip to the Council Shop in York and a bridging ceremony will be held in the beginning of May with other Emmitsburg troops.

If your GS cookies are all gone and you would like to purchase more, please contact us as we have many boxes left over from our booth sale. We will also sell any left at the open house at Endless Summer RVs.

We recently held Spring Registration. If anyone is interested in joining a troop in this area, please contact Shirley Greene, (301) 447-6308.

Written by the girls in Cadette Troop 1088.

## CAMP JAMIE

Hospice of Frederick County is currently planning its 6th annual Camp Jamie, a special weekend camp for the children between the ages of 6 & 14 who have experienced the loss of a loved one. The weekend was designed to provide a safe place for children to share their grief, to learn coping skills, and to express their feelings. Camp Jamie will be held on August 1 - 3. If you know of any child who may benefit from such an experience, or if you wish to be considered as an adult volunteer, please call Cathy Walker or Terry Nikirk at 694-6444.



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## Weddings and Engagements



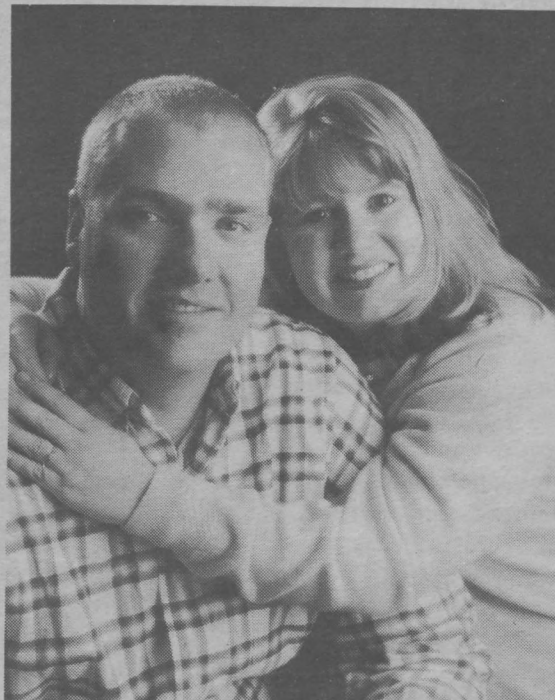
### Flatley-Sullivan

Mrs. Elizabeth Flatley of Gettysburg, Pa., announces the engagement of her daughter Tina to Patrick M. Sullivan II of Emmitsburg, Md., son of Mr. and Mrs. Patrick M. Sullivan, Sr., of Emmitsburg.

Miss Flatley is a 1983 graduate of Gettysburg High School and is employed at Dal-Tile Corporation in Gettysburg.

Mr. Sullivan graduated from Putnam High School in Putnam, Conn., in 1987, then in 1992 earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in philosophy from Central Connecticut State University in New Britain, Conn. Mr. Sullivan came to Emmitsburg in 1992 to undertake graduate studies at Mount St. Mary's. He is currently employed by Watkins Security Agency, Inc. in Frederick, Md.

A July wedding is planned at St. Joseph's Church in Emmitsburg.



### Frischkorn-Beach

Mr. and Mrs. A. R. Friskhorn, Jr., of Oakton, Va., announce the engagement of their daughter, Allison Frances, to Mr. David Michael Beach, son of Mr. and Mrs. Roger Beach of Vienna, Va. Allison, granddaughter of the late Paul and Mary Humerick Sherwin of Emmitsburg, is a graduate of the Ohio State University where she received a degree in human ecology. She is presently employed by the University of South Carolina. Dave is also a graduate of the Ohio State University with a degree in education. He is presently teaching in the Columbia, South Carolina, school system. An August wedding is planned.



### Kittinger - Ridenour

Elias Evangelical Lutheran Church in Emmitsburg was the setting for the wedding uniting Karen Kittinger, Emmitsburg, and Larry Ridenour, Emmitsburg, on March 22, 1997.

Photo courtesy Rosensteel Studio

Congratulations to Linda Postelle and John Hollinger, winners of Emmitsburg's Municipal Government Week Crossword puzzle.





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## Emmitsburg At Work

By Rena Damskey

Hilda Hemingway, secretary to Emmitsburg Elementary School, is retiring this month after thirty years of dedicated service to our children and their parents. Mrs. Hemingway started as an assistant aide in 1967 and was soon offered the job of secretary.

She has seen many changes during that time. "The school atmosphere is less formal. Peers were addressed as Mr. and Mrs.; now it is mostly first names. It is a more relaxed, friendly environment. Walls gave way to open space. The open-space concept went out and walls have come back. Fashions changed drastically. Now most anything is acceptable. Licking stamps is out; self-sticking stamps are in. Great idea! Typewriters are becoming a thing of the past and computers are in. Before 1974, grades K through 12 attended school in the old Emmitsburg High School building. Hilda remembers the first "bomb scare." "All the children were put out in the rain and the school was closed for the day."

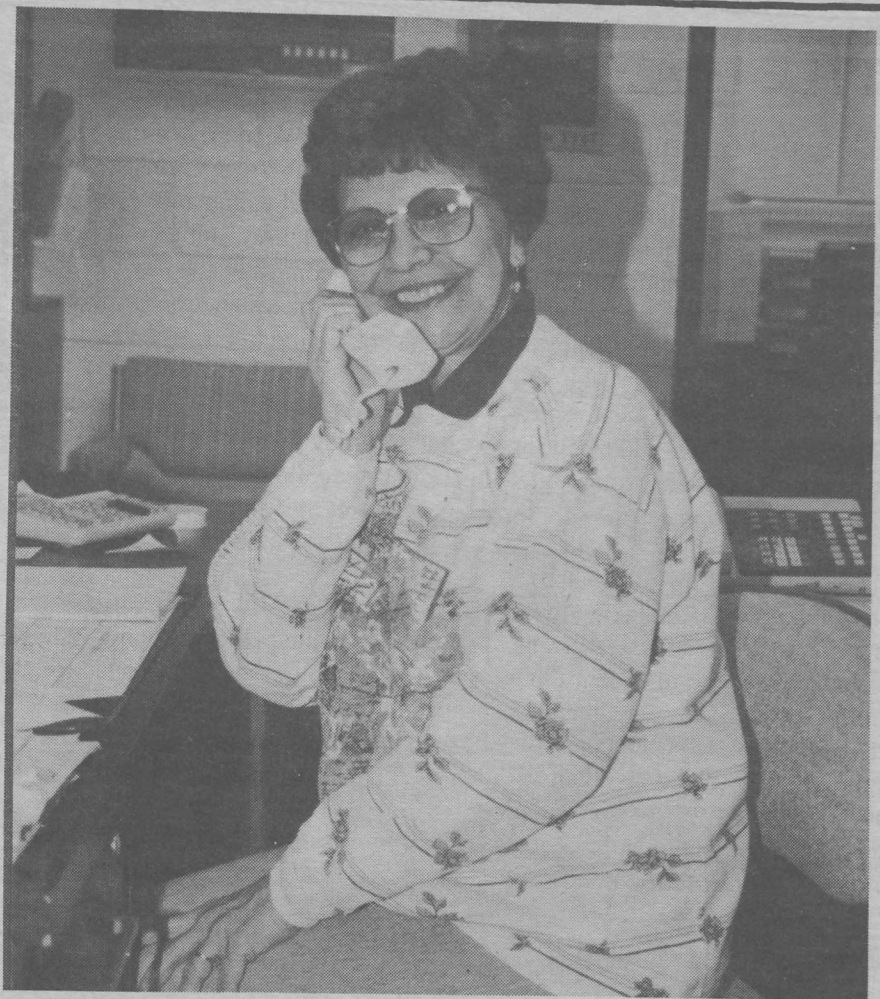
Observing Mrs. Hemingway on the job, you see her answering the phone and responding to questions from children and staff who pass by her desk. She operates the copier and the computer and dispenses medication. "I'm a nurse,

too!" What other responsibilities does she have? "You wouldn't have space to write it all, so I'll just say 'anything and everything that needs to be done.' I'm sure I've done it all over the years. Meeting and working with some wonderful people and knowing that I have done my job to the best of my ability gives me great satisfaction."

Thinking about retirement and reminiscing about the past thirty years, Mrs. Hemingway says, "I would like to express my deep gratitude to God and His grace and blessings and pay tribute to my mother, who gave me love and support, and to my wonderful son Johnny, my source of joy, and friends Joe, Gene, Frani, Dot, Alice, my niece Amanda, and my brother and sister, who always told me 'You can do it' as I began my job. I'm grateful."

"I'm grateful for all the wonderful people I've had an opportunity to work with, the parents and students over the thirty years that have been so great to me. I thank each one of you."

Hilda's plans for after retirement include travel (she would like to see Ireland), visiting with her family and spending time with Avelina, her



Hilda Hemingway, for 30 years, has been doing "anything and everything" at the elementary school. Photo courtesy Rena Damskey

granddaughter. She would like to learn to quilt and wants to put all her pictures in albums. A retirement party

is planned for May 14th from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. at the school.

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## LITTLE LEAGUE NEWS

By Marta Hillis

The 1997 Emmitsburg Little League season has officially begun! Despite very windy conditions, Opening Day (April 19) was enjoyable for the anxious players and cheering spectators. There was lots of action with three major division games, two minor division games, and t-ball scrimmages scheduled throughout the day.

The first match-up began at 10 a.m. with the Cardinals facing the Giants. After the introduction of team players, managers, and coaches, our National Anthem was played and the Little League pledge was recited. League President Bill Wivell announced that the 1997 season is dedicated to the memory of Bob Saylor, a long-time loyal supporter and friend of Emmitsburg Little League. A moment of silence was observed before each of the three major division games.

The ceremonial 1st pitch was delivered by Vice President Roy Wivell, an outstanding league volunteer. The Giants won their season opener with a narrow 6-5 victory. In the second game the Red Sox ran away with a 24-5 win over the Orioles.

Mr. Bruce Weatherly of the 4 x 4 Borderline Club (a generous sponsor our local Little League and Yankees team sponsor) threw out the 1st pitch of the final contest of the day between the Yankees and the Dodgers. The Yanks came out on top 13-6.

Besides playing lots of baseball that Saturday, players had their team and individual pictures taken by local photographer, Bob Rosensteel of The Rosensteel Studio.

As you probably know, Little League's annual Hershey candy sale is now in progress. Players need to turn in their money to their team manager as soon as possible. Thank you for your support of this fundraiser.

Remember that although the season has already begun it's not too late to volunteer as an umpire, concession stand worker, game announcer, etc., etc. Don't hesitate, just do it! There's plenty of baseball and softball to enjoy in Emmitsburg from now until July. Come on out to watch! It's great fun.



Play Ball! Spring 1997

Opening day action. Oriole's Emily Balogh takes a healthy swing as Red Sox catcher James Ridenour snags the ball. The umpire is Steve Myers. The Little League has dedicated the entire season in memory of Bob Saylor who dedicated many years to baseball in Emmitsburg.

A Dispatch Photo

## At the Ball Park - 1938



Picture taken in 1938 by Dr. W.R. Cadle at the Emmitsburg Ball Field. From the left are Rev. Fr. Easterly, Sterling Peters, Rev. Charles Stouter, Paul A. Keepers, Richard Zacharias, and an unidentified person from Frederick. Photo courtesy Paul Keepers

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## LOOKING AHEAD

**Sunday, May 4**

**Opening Reception from 3 - 5 p.m. at Studio Gallery for the Solo Show of work by Rena Damskey.** The Studio Gallery, 304 E. Main Street, Emmitsburg, will feature her work, both arts and crafts, during the month of May. Refreshments. Free. 301-447-3292.

**Monday, May 5**

**Spring Rabies Clinic for cats and dogs (3 months of age or older) sponsored by the Frederick County Health Department** at Catocin High School, 14745 Sabillasville Road, from 5:00 - 8:00 p.m. Cost \$5. Please have animals properly confined: leashed or in carriers.

**Saturday, May 10**

**Incarnation Church of Christ food sale** from 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon at the Emmitsburg Fire Hall.

**Music for Life Festival sponsored by the DeMarillac Center and Project Rachel of Baltimore,**

Saturday, May 10, at Mount St. Mary's College from 9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. Tickets \$10. Students \$5. Children under age 6 free. Call 301-447-1811 for ticket information or an event schedule. (See story on page 17.)

**Monday, May 12**

**The Thurmont Evening Aglow** will meet at the Cozy Restaurant, 103 Frederick Road, for a 6:30 p.m. buffet dinner. Cost for the meatless buffet is \$6.50. For reservations call 694-2713 or 271-4346 by May 9. Meeting time is 7:30-9:00 p.m., with prayer support afterwards for those wishing to stay. Nancy McGuirk from Hagerstown, President of Maryland/West Area Aglow Board, is speaking.

**Friday, May 16**

**Longaberger Basket Bingo** will be held at the Guardian Hose Company's Activities Building in Thurmont to benefit **Catocin High School's 1997 Safe & Sane Party.** Doors will open at 4:30 and games begin at 7:00 p.m. Food and drinks available. Admission only \$10.00 and entitles you to 20 games to win baskets and cookie jars. Many door prizes will be given away. For

reservations, call Vickie at 271-2885. Advance tickets only.

**Saturday, May 17**

**A yard and bake sale** from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the **Emmitsburg Senior Citizens Center**, rain or shine.

**Emmitsburg Lion Club Chicken**

**Barbecue**, Sat. May 17, South Seton Ave. across from the Getty Mart, 11:00 a.m. till ..., to benefit the William Topper Medical Fund.

**Sunday, May 18**

**A good old country breakfast at the Taneytown Rod & Gun Club**, 12380 Shoemaker Road, 7 a.m. to 11 a.m. The menu includes pancakes, buckwheat cakes, sausage, eggs, homemade biscuits, toast, sausage gravy, chipped-beef gravy, pudding and hominy, fried potatoes, hot cheese, and hot apples. Also available will be fruit cocktail, orange juice, and coffee. Adults \$4.50, children 8 to 12 \$3.00. Show paid-up membership card and get 50 cents off. For information, call Godfrey or Florence at (410) 751-1685

**Friday, May 23**

**The Frederick County 250th Anniversary House Tour Committee** will meet at the Studio Gallery, 304 E. Main Street, at 10:00 a.m. Anyone interested, please come.

**Saturday, May 24**

**Craft & Flea Market sponsored by Tom's Creek United Methodist Church** will be held at the future site of the church, 19018 (along Rt. 140) from 7:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Area churches will be the vendors. Refreshments will be served by Tom's Creek. For more information call (410) 756-6878 or (301) 447-2693.

**Saturday, June Strawberry festival**

**sponsored by the Mount Tabor churches** from 5:00 to 10:00 p.m. at Mount Tabor Park, Motter Station Road, Rocky Ridge. Delicious sandwiches, soups, pies, and ice cream will be offered, as well as strawberries. There will be games for all ages, including a giant sliding board. Music will be provided by "Country Christians."

## Reunion Reminder.

The Descendants of Harry and Annie Wantz Annual Reunion is scheduled for Sunday, June 29, 1997 at the Indian Lookout Conservation Club grounds in Emmitsburg, MD beginning at 10 AM. All families are encouraged to attend.

Last year's reunion was held on June 30th at the Indian Lookout Conservation Clubgrounds. There were over 54 family members present, including Todd McGlaughlin who travelled over 70 miles to attend! David Wantz, Sr. and Mary Jean Houck won prizes for the eldest family members present, and Dave Wantz Jr. and Marc Houck won the horseshoe tournament. Mark your calendars so that we can have another great year, with lots of family, food and fun!

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# **OPEN HOUSE**

**Emmitsburg Child Care Center  
is Having an Open House!**

***Tuesday, May 13, 1997***

***3:15 -- 5:15 pm!***

**16840 South Seton Avenue**

**Emmitsburg, MD 21727**

**301-447-6100**

***Enjoy Cecil the Clown  
and his balloon art!***

**Refreshments!**

**Tour our Day Care Facility!**

***COME ONE...COME ALL!***

**Now Registering for our Summer Program!  
Children Ages 2 - 12**



## ROCKY RIDGE NEWS

By Emma Keeney

Birthday wishes for May go to Robert (Bob) Peomroy, Amber Humerick, Pauline Duble, Rosie Stambaugh, Charles Keeney, Sr., Amy Burrier, George Moser, Dale Shields, Josh Ballew, Wesley Burrier, Jerry Martin, Ben Sanders, Patsy Wetzel, and Erin Hobbs.

Happy anniversary to the following couples: Ronald and Diane Hahn, Bernie and Dawn Hobbs, David and Michelle Dinterman, Bill and Regina Dinterman, and Charles and Emma Keeney.

Melissa Sharrer is recovering at home after a tonsillectomy on April 17 at Gettysburg Hospital.

Mary Ellen Cummings has returned home after treatment at Frederick Memorial Hospital and Washington Health Care Center.

Isabel Mathias had surgery at the Frederick Memorial Hospital and is now recovering at home.

Kevin Sharrer, son of Mr. and Mrs. Jeffrey Sharrer, won 2nd place in the local VICA contest for carpentry. Next, he won 2nd place at the regional competition at Allegheny Vo-Tech Center, where he won a hammer, nail pouch, crowbar, T-shirt, certificate, and pin. At the state finals in Baltimore, he won 1st place, receiving a \$200 savings bond, a DeWalt cordless drill, a certificate, and a gold medal. He will participate in the national competition to be held the last week of June in Kansas City, Missouri. Kevin was

accepted into the National Technical Honor Society and is in the National Honor Society at Catoctin High School. Congratulations, Kevin. Good luck at nationals!

The Mt. Tabor Youth Group sponsored an Easter egg hunt on March 29, resulting in a number of winners: Two and under: Lucky Egg-Markas Flanigan, Most Eggs-Megan Ott; Age 3-4: Lucky Egg-R.J. Smith, Most Eggs-Brandon Eaves; Age 5-7: Lucky Egg-Doug Seiss, Jr., Most Eggs-Randy Gelwicks and Eric Barr; Age 8-10: Lucky Egg-Lacy Wolfe, Most Eggs-Michael Hobbs, Most Eggs-Jenifer Gillespie.

The Mount Tabor churches will sponsor a strawberry festival from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. on Saturday, June 7, at Mount Tabor Park, Motters Station Road, Rocky Ridge, Md. Sandwiches, soups, pies, ice cream, and strawberries will be served. There will be games for young and not so young, including a giant sliding board. Music will be provided by "Country Christians."

May 10th is the Sportsman Night at the Rocky Ridge Fire Hall. The Rocky Ridge Ladies Auxiliary will be sponsoring a Basket Bingo on May 17th at 6:30 p.m. There are only a few tickets left. Anyone interested in a ticket may call Linda Northrup (447-6714), Tammy Smith (271-3739), or Teresa Kaas (271-3781). Thank you for your support and have a fire-safe summer.

## MT. TABOR QUILTERS

By Inspector 13

Most quilters have a favorite pattern and are very protective of its name. It is not wise to compliment a quilter on her "Evening Star" when she knows it is really the "Ohio Star."

This star design is another example of squares and triangles meeting the same fate as "Jacob's Ladder," mentioned in the April *Dispatch*. The design makes a beautiful traditional quilt with multiple names—each of which has been refuted by some authority.

One of this writer's greatest quilt disappointments resulted because of a quilt pattern a family member gave me. Her blocks were beautiful, the name intriguing: "Bird of Paradise."

Immediately, thoughts of fabric in exotic, neon colors flashed before my

eyes. The name could represent a bird or a tropical flower, and the colors should be bright and shocking.

The pattern was difficult, the results spectacular. Then the balloon burst! I found the exact pattern in a book, but it was called "Star and Crescent." Research uncovered two more names: "Crown of Thorns" and "Broken Crown." Bold neon reds, blues, greens, and yellows didn't seem appropriate for a quilt with these names.

My pattern was in a magazine article about an Alabama quilter. She said, "You can just see that little ole bird's beak in the orange center of the block." Sorry! I don't see a bird, flower, or beak. All I see is a star and crescent in neon colors.

## New Rocky Ridge Engine House



Finishing touches are being applied to the new Rocky Ridge Engine House on Motter's Station Road.

A Dispatch Photo

## Rocky Ridge Fire Co. To Dedicate Engine House

The Rocky Ridge Volunteer Fire Company, Inc., will host an open house and dedication ceremony at their newly constructed engine house at 2 p.m. on May 25th at 13527 Motters Station Road, Rocky Ridge.

The 10,350-square foot Morton building, nearing completion at an estimated cost of \$600,000.00. The structure will include an eight-bay drive-through engine room, an administrative office, chief's

office, snack and lounge area, a trophy/meeting room and handicapped-accessible restrooms.

Renovation plans are contemplated for the existing fire hall at 13516 Motters Station Road. Fund raisers and social events will continue to be scheduled from that location. The public is cordially invited to attend the celebration.

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## St. Anthony/OLMC NEWS

By Ann Marshall

**THERE ARE TWENTY-TWO CHILDREN IN THE 1997 FIRST COMMUNION CLASS.** They will receive First Eucharist on Saturday, May 3, 1997, at a special 11:00 p.m. Mass.

Communicants are:

### St. Anthony Shrine

Alan Decker, Amanda Durski, Chelsea Eyler, Thomas Fry Jr., Jennifer Krietz, Mary Krietz, Morgan Maze, Ashley Miller

### Our Lady of Mt. Carmel

Ashley Crawford, Jonathan Deroner, Tara Fitzgerald, James Hill, Andrew Lechowicz, Mallory Metheny, Iola Testa, William Delauter, Erin Fitzgerald, Justin Furnia, Amanda Krantz, Matthew Lewis, Kathryn Stackhouse, Derek Woelfel

**EASTER FLOWERS** to decorate each church were provided by parishioners in loving memory of family and friends. The memorial lists read almost like a directory of each church. There were 92 donations at OLMC and 181 at St. Anthony Shrine.

### VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED

to serve as Eucharistic Ministers. This is a ministry to homebound and sick parishioners and is rooted in early tradition when Christians not only distributed Eucharist in church but also carried it to the homes of those absent. The number of parishioners requesting this spiritual comfort has risen rapidly in the past year. Anyone wishing to volunteer is asked to contact Sr. Mary Jan, 447-2367.

**THE NURSERY CO-OP**, located in "The Little Red Schoolhouse," is open during the 9:30 a.m. Mass each Sunday for children under the age of five.

**MOTHER'S DAY SPIRITUAL BOUQUET CARDS** are available in the back of each church. On Mother's Day weekend, May 10/11, the Masses will be celebrated for intentions received.

**BAPTISMS:** Our Lady of Mt. Carmel welcomes into the Catholic faith **Stacie Ione Baust**, daughter of Troy and Tammy Baust, and **Mary Elizabeth Sweeney**, daughter of Hal and Mary Sweeney. Both babies were baptized on April 13, 1997.

## God's Country

By Debra A. Brownley

I remember when I first moved to the small town of Fairfield, Pennsylvania. Having moved from a fairly congested, rapidly developing area in Maryland, I found life in the country a refreshing change. It was the warm small-town hospitality and the beautiful landscape that attracted us to settle in Fairfield. The whole area was maintained, from the extremely well-kept farms to the tidiness of the town.

One day, I was buying hay from a fellow named Paul, who lived just outside of Fairfield. While loading the bales of hay onto the truck, Paul and I talked about the weather and the prices cattle were bringing at the market. I was telling him that after living in the country, I didn't think I could ever go back to life in the suburbs. He replied with a smile, "Debby, you're living in God's country now!"

I thought hard about what Paul had meant by "God's country." I could not find a suitable definition. After a while, I realized that there was no place on earth like Fairfield, Pennsylvania. God's country was not

something that could be defined, but rather somewhere that had to be lived.

There are many things about living in the country that are not experienced in the suburbs. There are no ordinances about hanging my laundry out to dry. The linens flapping in the wind sound like battered sails on a ship. There is a crispness about the towels, a fresh, spring smell that clung to my son's clothes, and a clean feel to the newly washed sheets dried on the clothesline.

At the bottom of our property, there are several underground springs that pour out of the ground freely and abundantly. There is no water bill awaiting us in the mailbox at the end of each month, no added chemicals in our drinking water, just good, cold water chilled in the depths of Mother Nature.

There is no smell of pollution as the air is clean and smells of rain. At night, the sky looks darker and the stars appear brighter.

There are no sounds of traffic nearby, just the sounds of nature that

occupy our property: the song birds at the crack of dawn, the chorus of frogs in a nearby pond, the sounds of geese taking flight, and the laughter of children in the distance as their tiny voices echo off the mountains.

The charismatic town of Fairfield is a place where relationships are based on trust, and where "do unto others as you would want others to do unto you" still has meaning. Perhaps this is what Paul meant when he said, "Debby, you're living in God's country now!"

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## Mount Saint Mary's College Review

By Kathleen Cuoco

First I would like to introduce myself. My name is Kathleen Cuoco and I am a freshman at Mount Saint Mary's College here in Emmitsburg. I am from New York City. Even though I am from the city I live on the beach. Strange I know but that is how New York is made up.

I am very involved on campus which should prove helpful in writing for the *Dispatch*. I am the sports editor for the school paper, DJ on the campus radio station, and advertising manager for the Society of Collegiate Journalists. As you can see, I am very interested in media.

Now to the events on campus. There have been many events going around the Mount since Easter break. There was a theater production of *Much Ado About Nothing* by William Shakespeare. The talented cast was made up of freshman as well as upperclassmen. Two of the most outstanding actors were freshman Sue Hottinger and senior Pat McIntyre who played Beatrice and Benedict respectively. Comic relief was provided by Gerard Mood, Dominic Brown, Scott Dipisa, and Tom Beem. It was amazing to see how well the actors played their parts and how deeply they got into them.

The Second Annual Radiothon has started already and will continue until the 25th. We will be on the air 24 hours a day. The main goal of this Radiothon is to raise money for the station in order to purchase more CD's, equipment, and other necessary items. The radio station would appreciate anyone who would be able to sponsor a show. A donation of \$25 would enable you to sponsor a two hour program and a donation of \$50 would enable you to sponsor a four hour program. If you are interested in sponsoring a show or know of someone interested then you can contact the Program Manager Joe Walch at 301-447-5523. Our station is WMTB 89.9 (FM).

There have been notable athletes and students that should be mentioned. Senior basketball player Amy Langville was awarded a NCAA graduate school scholarship. Only 15 are given out nationwide. She scored over 1,000 points in her four-year basketball career.

In other sports, the soccer team, while only in its spring season, has been doing well, especially because of freshman Duncan Gladwin from Eng-

land. In his last game he was said to have made the best goal ever seen in Mount soccer. He went from the Mount goalkeeper to Towson's goalkeeper without a Towson player ever touching the ball.

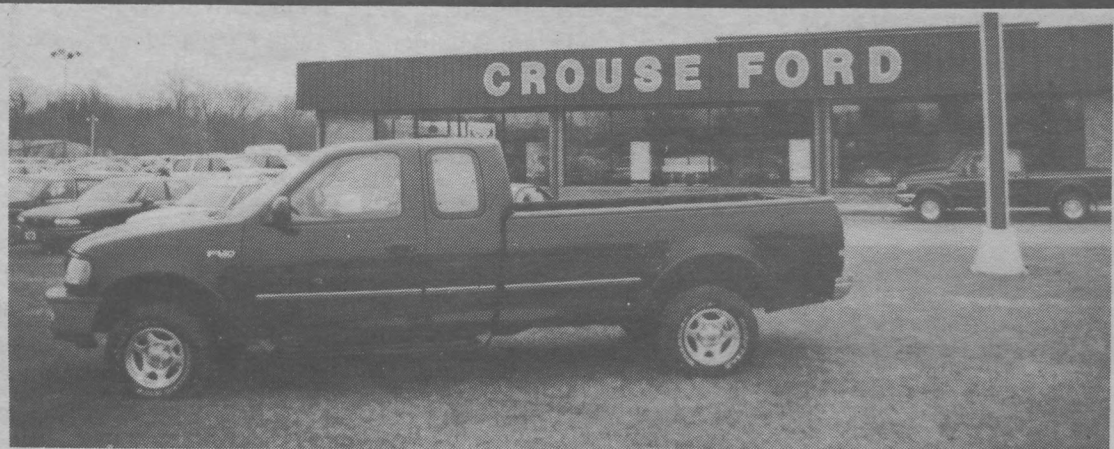
*Readers interested in specific events at the Mount could send a request to Kathleen in care of this paper for a more complete story.*

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## Memorial Services for the Unborn

The De Marillac Center will hold its first Music For Life Festival from 9 a.m. until 6 p.m. on Saturday, May 10, 1997, in the Knott Auditorium at Mt. St. Mary's College. Music For Life will be a festival of voices to celebrate the blessing of the National Memorial to all unborn children and

will feature East Coast Christian artists and guest speakers.

A highlight of the festival will be the first public presentation of the Holy Family Blanket of Love—a project which allows anyone the opportunity to name and memorialize children who have died by miscar-

riage, stillbirth, or abortion. It is a living memorial for people unable openly to acknowledge or grieve the loss of their unborn children. The Memorial Blanket of Love becomes a way for people to encounter their children for the first time and then begin a spiritual relationship with them.

Blankets of Love are constructed by sewing together squares embroidered with the unborn child's name, month, and year of death. Individual squares are sewn into 6-foot blankets to be displayed separately in churches and other public places across the country. The Blankets of Love will be returned and displayed in the National Memorial located in Emmitsburg.

The De Marillac Center is a private, non-profit corporation formed to promote the healing of individuals and families who have experienced trauma and rejection which have left them morally and psychologically scarred. Funds raised from the Music For Life Festival go to the ministry of the Holy Family Blanket of Love and the promotion and development of post-abortion counseling programs.

For more information or an event schedule call (301)447-1811.

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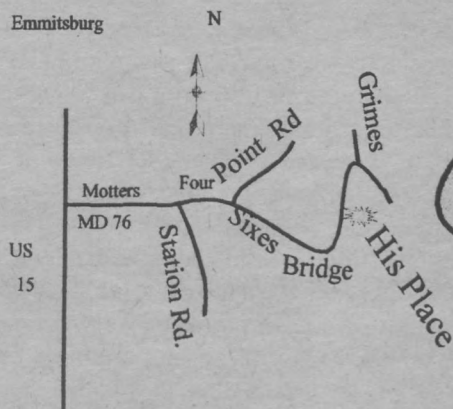
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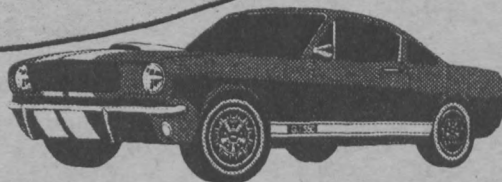
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## Over The White Board Fence

By Mike Hillman

Well, spring is finally in the air, which, unfortunately for Audrey, signals the beginning of another eventing season for me and my horses. The equestrian sport of eventing, or 'combined training,' traces its origin to the days when countries depended upon the cavalry in battle, and horses were a vital part of the army. Friendly boasting at the end of a day's campaign as to the relative courage, speed, and stamina of particular horses evolved into a series of tests to prove these claims.

In track and field, the decathlon represents the ultimate in testing the all-around skill of an athlete. In equestrian sport, combined training is considered the ultimate test. This competition encompasses three separate tests (hence, its name): dressage, endurance, and show jumping, each scored individually but added together for the final score. Unlike other sports where only the human will and body are working against the clock, in combined training, two minds and bodies have to work as one, and a true partnership between horse and rider is necessary to win.

I began riding on a dare at the ripe old age of 21. Soon after moving to Emmitsburg, I lost my competition horse to a freak riding accident and, because of job commitments, figured my competition days were over. A year later, however, I was itching to get back in the saddle again, and with the help of Julie Gomena, a long-time friend and internationally ranked rider, I acquired Lt. Worf. As Worf was only 3 at the time, his training began at the basics. He had to be taught how to carry a rider, jump a jump, patiently stand on cross-ties, and a plethora of other things that go into making a winning event horse.

Recognizing the potential in Worf, we have made every effort to ensure his successful education. For the past four years, beginning in early March and continuing until early November, twice a week Worf and I religiously make the three-hour trip down to our coach's farm for lessons, and like all students, between lessons Worf and I practice, practice, and practice. For me, the hardest part of learning to ride was disciplining myself to go straight to the barn and ride when I got home from work. For Worf, the hardest part of life was dealing with me.

To compete successfully, both horse and rider must be properly conditioned. To this end, at the beginning of each year, a training schedule is drawn up that details each day's activities, be it dressage, jumping, galloping,



**Mike Hillman & Lt. Worf jumping the first element of the water complex at the Essex three-day horse trials last spring.**

Photo by Terri Miller

hacking, and yes, even Worf's days off. Monday is usually Worf's day off. Like any athlete, he's constantly under pressure to perform, and needs at least one day off to unwind, relax, and recover. Tuesday's fare usually consists of half an hour of dressage and 40 minutes of trotting up and down hills to improve physical stamina. Wednesday evenings are usually spent commuting to Middleburg for a lesson. Lessons are usually dedicated to expanding the scope of our abilities, be it mastering some particular dressage movement, tackling a technically challenging cross-country obstacle, or improving Worf's agility over twisting stadium courses. Thursday's workout is a repeat of the Tuesday schedule.

Noncompetition weekends are usually spent hacking around the Emmitsburg countryside. Competition weekends, however, are dramatically different. Since there's just too much to get ready for, I usually take off from work the Friday before a competition. First on the agenda is the 5-hour sojourn to Middleburg to fine-tune our

performance. Following our return, Worf is handed over to Audrey for grooming. While I've had a lot of fun at Audrey's expense in this column over the past year, I willingly admit she's worth double her weight in gold when it comes to getting a horse ready for a competition. Long before I met her, Audrey had established herself as a highly sought-after world-class groom, and her resumé includes positions on the gold medal-winning United States Equestrian Olympic Team at Montreal and at numerous world championships in Europe.

Audrey not only looks to Worf's physical needs, but more importantly, she calls all the shots when it comes to his mental well-being. Her success in this area is demonstrated daily by the fact that Audrey is the only person Worf will come to in the field. Everyone else represents work.

For Audrey at least, competition weekends usually start long before the sun is up. By the time I join her in the barn,

Audrey has seen to Worf's feeding, grooming, and is usually halfway through braiding his mane. Just as she did when she was a member of the Olympic team, Audrey pretty much calls the shots on handling both equipment and the horse at competitions, and after 4 years of competing together, I've just about figured out her routine, and with that, how to stay out of trouble.

As I noted earlier, an 'event' is comprised of three phases: dressage, endurance or cross-country, and stadium jumping. The dressage test is a series of complicated movements performed in an enclosed arena. Precision, smoothness, suppleness, and complete obedience show off the horse's gymnastic development. Ideally, it should look as if the horse is performing of its own accord. The test is scored on each movement, rather like the scoring in figure skating, with overall harmony and precision taken into consideration. The endurance test is designed to prove the speed, endurance, courage, and jumping ability of the true cross-country horse brought to the peak of condition. At the same time, it demonstrates

the rider's knowledge and skill at riding at speed over cross-country obstacles.

While Worf excels at dressage, he's brilliant on cross-country, which for me, is what it's all about. A typical cross-country course will have between 20 and 25 obstacles over a distance of two miles. Obstacles come in all shapes and sizes: a 6-foot-wide ditch, a 5-foot-high hedge, or a raised log followed by a drop into water. Because Worf never gets a chance to see the obstacles on the course until he's asked to jump them at a gallop, I have to plan my cross-country ride carefully, for a single stop or fall is all that separates the winners from the losers. Even more important is the fact that cross-country jumps are solid and don't fall down; horse and riders do, so mistakes can be extremely hazardous to one's health.

The last phase of the event, show jumping, is designed to demonstrate that following a severe test of endurance, the horse has retained suppleness, energy and obedience. Following stadium jumping, the penalty points incurred in each phase of the competition are tallied, and the lowest six riders in each division are awarded ribbons. There's no prize money in this sport. However, because only the top horse and rider combinations receive ribbons, even a sixth-place ribbon is highly prized, especially when you're competing against past and present members of the Olympic team. In combined training, it's the experience level of the horse, not the rider, that determines the division in which you participate.

Once back on the farm, tack and equipment must be unloaded and cleaned, and friends are called. The first person I call is my coach, who is always eager to hear me recount the day's events. Back when Marcus — who was on the gold-medal team at Montreal — was alive, Worf used to seek out Marcus as if he, like me, was debriefing his coach. "That guy couldn't make up his mind today, turn right, turn left, up a hill, down a hill, jump this, jump that. I wish he would leave me alone and let me do my job." Marcus, I imagine, would be unsympathetic to Worf's complaints, "You call what you did today hard? You guys today have it too easy. Back in my days on the Olympic team we warmed up for the big jumps by jumping a redwood tree over a ditch they called the Grand Canyon, then we had to jump..."

*Mike lives with his wife Audrey on their farm south-east of Emmitsburg, where, with the help of his horse, he holds the number one ranking for Adult Amateurs in the sport of Combined Training.*



## Goat Tales

### "Milking Madness & Goatly Lessons"

by Christine Maccabee

In any relationship we humans might have with other human beings, it takes time to get to know one another and to feel comfortable. The same applies to the human-goat relationship—there are good days and there are bad days—and always there are adjustments to be made in order to get along better.

Fleetfoot has been and still is a difficult goat to deal with. Indeed, she has remained true to her name as her fleet-footedness is still sometimes a problem during her daily milkings. A

few memorable moments, as recorded in my journal, should give you a better idea as to the foolishness I must put up with:

February - Sat. "Today was ridiculous. I'd just begun to milk Fleetfoot, but because I paused to fish a hair out of the pail, she decided it was time to remove her hind feet from the tether, which she nearly did as she agilely lifted her entire back-end up in the air. Concerned lest her feet fall into the pail, I held up her back-end with my left hand, and pulled the pail away with my right. Quickly, and authoritatively, I pushed her feet downward and held them fast while I laboriously milked both udders with my poor right hand. I was aggravated, but determined to empty the bags. Twice more she tried to move her feet, but I held fast, and finished the job. The temperature was 28 degrees and falling, as was the snow, but I was sweating under my warm coat from all the exertion."

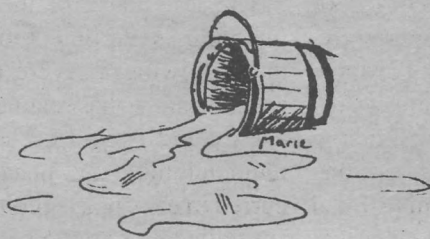
It is times like this that I think about my friend Paul, experienced farmer, who periodically calls to inform me about an automatic milker for sale, cheap. Never once did I consider using anything but my two hands. The last time Paul called about a \$10 milker, I still refused. I am determined to learn how to milk the old-fashioned way. Paul also advised me to lasso their feet. (I'll never forget my first attempts to milk without the tether.) So thanks,

Paul, for all your good advice. You are a true friend and a good neighbor."

Sometime the following week: "Today was a great day. Fleetfoot was feeling close to me, I could tell, as I cleaned her for milking. While she stood on the milkstand, her body language spoke loud and clear...she would cooperate fully, she said, as she leaned her large, soft body heavily against my shoulders, almost endearingly, trustingly, submitting herself to me. Yes, so long as I fully appreciate and respect her and her goatly feelings I would earn the right to master her. She loses herself in the mix with extra corn, forgetting about me. I dream, and then finish with soft words of praise and more friendly pats. Tonight there was no conflict, only peace."

Then in April: "No," I yell sharply at Fleetfoot, using the most commanding voice I can muster. And it works. No more nonsense, I think to myself. "NO", I say again as she attempts to move her hind feet. Her biggest bag isn't even half empty, so I must continue to milk her. For some reason she is restless, but my verbal command seems to work quite well, along with my left hand on her back legs as a gentle reminder."

So life goes on in its predictably/unpredictable manner here on my little homestead. Difficulties with man and beast are an inevitable part of existence, but it is far better to resolve these differences through the practice of good will and understanding, finding creative solutions, rather than resorting to anger, intimidation, or violence. True progress and peace of mind can only be gained through peaceful solutions, no matter how maddening the situation.



### Deadline

For June Issue

May 22.

## Obituaries

### Mrs. Patricia S. Gaiser

Mary Patricia Gaiser died at her home in Little Rock, Arkansas, Wednesday April 9, 1997. Born in Emmitsburg, Md., October 11, 1923, she was the daughter of the late Dr. O.H. and Frances Kerrigan Stinson.

Mrs. Gaiser was a member of Our Lady of the Holy Souls Catholic Church, a board member of the Arkansas AIDS Foundation, Daughters of the American Revolution, Grasshoppers, and a retired executive vice-president of First Federal Savings and Loan Association. A veteran of WWII, she served in the U.S. Navy and was a graduate of the University of Arkansas at Little Rock.

She is survived by her children, Patricia A. Lauck of Aurora, Indiana, Dr. Norman O. Gaiser of Conway, Arkansas, Deborah K. Dollar of North Little Rock, Dr. James E. Gaiser of Charlotte, N.C., John S. Gaiser, B. Sue Gaiser, and Frances G. Emerson, all of Little Rock; 12 grandchildren; 1 great-grandchild; and sisters Frances Bittle of Gettysburg, PA, Anne Goodspeed of Easton, MD, Harriett Norris, of Newton, NJ, and Sue Lake of Norristown, PA. She was preceded in death by her husband, Norman E. Gaiser and a brother, Frank J. Stinson.

### Seminar

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### Mr. John Cool

Mr. John Francis Cool, 52, of Emmitsburg, died Saturday, April 12, at St. Catherine's Nursing Home, Emmitsburg.

Born Dec. 17, 1944, in Gettysburg, Pa., he was the son of the late Paul W. and Ethel Cool.

Mr. Cool was a member of St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church, Emmitsburg and at one time worked at Mount St. Mary's College.

Surviving is one brother, Raymond L. Cool of Emmitsburg.

Funeral services were held on April 15 at Skiles Funeral Home. Interment was in Emmitsburg Memorial Cemetery.

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## Emmitsburg Elementary School



Students who jumped for heart: Back row - Heather Smith, Vincent Reaver, Ashley Mayer, Ben Rose, Sarah Rohrbaugh. Front row: Kayla Krietz, Michaela Gelwicks, Tracy Wetzal, and Camden Shorb.

Photo courtesy Betty Brownley

## Emmitsburg Elementary 'Jump Rope for Heart'

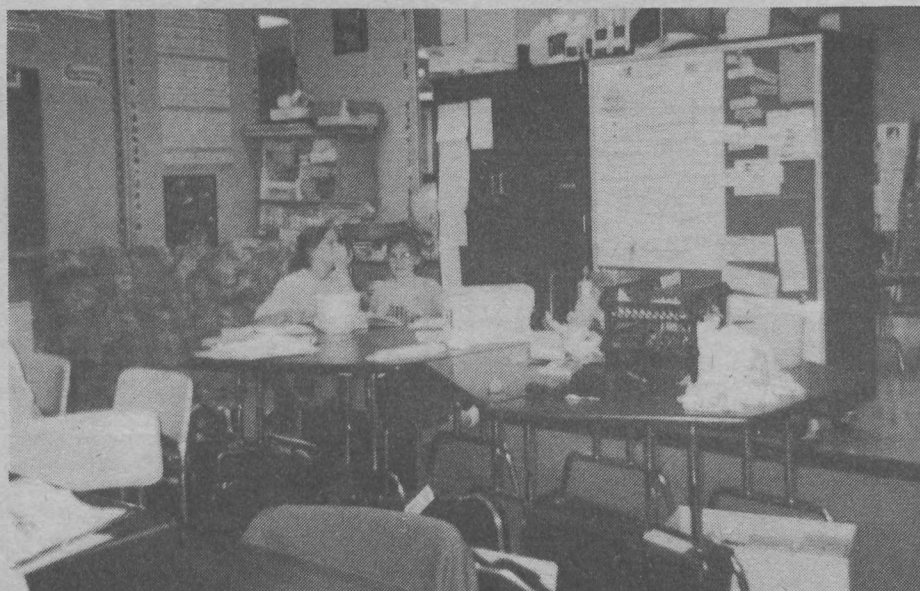
By Betty Brownley

On March 4, 1997, students from Emmitsburg Elementary got the jump on heart disease. They jumped rope for an hour and a half, raising over \$4,375. More than 100 children, ages 7 to 11, participated in the 14th annual Jump Rope for Heart event held at the school. Nine children raised over \$100 each. Tracy Wetzal raised \$265 and was the top fund raiser for the second year in a row.

Jump Rope for Heart is a program designed to teach participants about the benefits of regular exercise while promoting teamwork and building school spirit. The event emphasizes

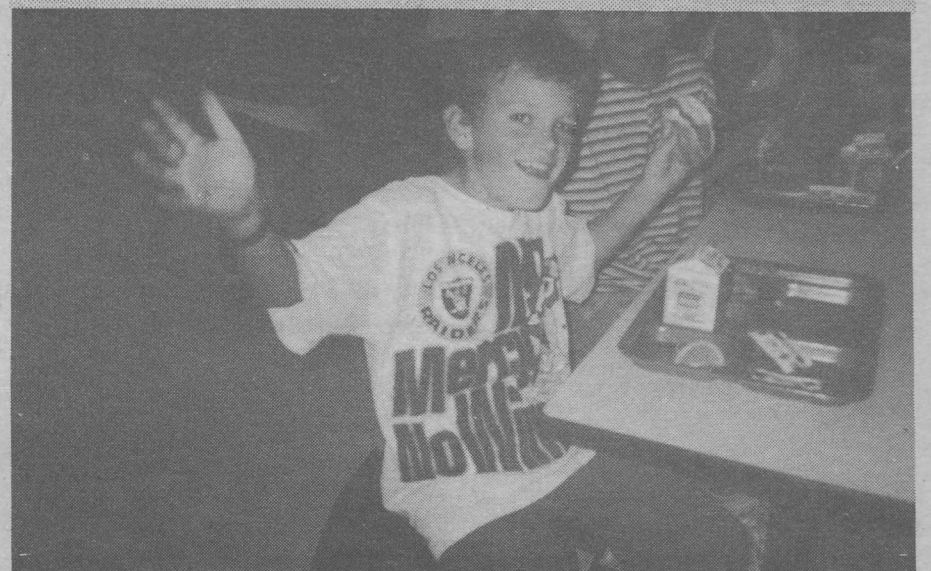
the importance of a healthy lifestyle, including proper nutrition, exercise, controlling high blood pressure, and not smoking.

Jump Rope for Heart is sponsored by the American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance and will benefit the American Heart Association, Frederick County Branch. Monies raised will support research and educational programs to fight cardiovascular diseases, our nation's #1 killer. A special thanks to Catocin Mt. Orchard (Black's) for providing delicious apples as a healthy snack for our hungry jumpers!



Brittany & Lindsey talking to each other when they were supposed to be doing work.  
Photo courtesy Adam Benvengi

## Candid Camera or Gotcha!

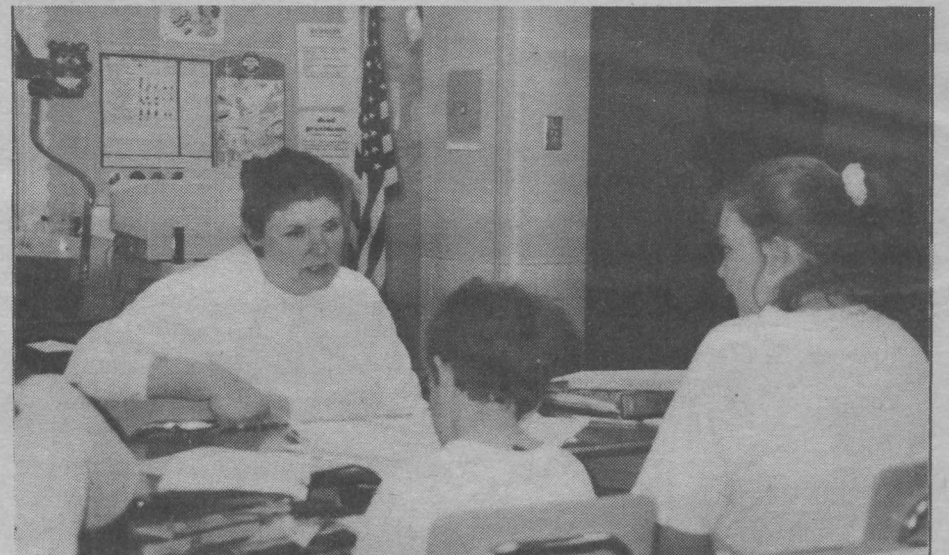


Michael Fink enjoys his lunch in the school cafeteria.

Photo courtesy Eric Speak

During the Career Day held at the Emmitsburg Elementary School last month these students asked to try their hand at taking photographs for a newspaper. The *Dispatch* obliged.

Students Eric Speak, Evan Wivell, Adam Benvengi, and Ashley Mayer searched the school during their lunch time on their first Photo Assignment, "What is going on around you during the noon lunch break?" These photos are only some of the scenes they saw.



Mrs. Nancy Progar helps Mike Fink and Becky Ott study for their Westward Movement test.  
Photo courtesy Evan Wivell



Sam Valentine is caught by surprise.

Photo courtesy Ashley Mayer



## Mother Seton School News

By Val Mentzer

### How do you spell relief?

Well, if you're not sure, 5th grader Zane Craig can spell it for you! By winning the Mother Seton School Spelling Bee, Zane qualified to participate in the final round of the Archdiocese of Baltimore Spelling Bee on April 24th.

### Reading Rainbow Finalist

Amanda Durski, in Mrs. Miller's 2nd grade, was recently honored by being one of four Maryland finalists in the Young Literary Writers' and Illustrators' Contest sponsored through Maryland Public Television and Reading Rainbow. Amanda will receive a special award on May 19th at a ceremony hosted by Maryland Public Television. Amanda's story has been sent to the national finals. Best of luck!

### Speaking of Spelling...

This year, the Mother Seton School Middle School students are learning their vocabulary words in a different way. Mrs. Melanie Ware, middle school language arts instructor, is heading a new program entitled *Vocabulary for the College Bound*. Responding to student need, this 9th-grade-level program is rooted in the study of the classics. Comparisons between test scores in the beginning of the school year and the third quarter show a 150% improvement. The students are very excited about the practical value this program has in their lives.

"It was really neat to be listening to CNN or other television news and recognize the very words we're studying," says Amy Kalas, an 8th-grade student. Many other students have remarked on how much easier it is to read novels and new literature with a better understanding of the vocabulary.

### Spelling, Vocabulary—What's Next, Literature?

As a matter of fact, yes. The College Mountain Players from Mount St. Mary's College brought to life the "Song of the Nightingale" by Hans Christian Andersen. These talented performers entertained the kindergartners and 1st and 2nd graders with colorful costumes, uplifting music, and terrific acting. Thank you, Mount St. Mary's, for your continued support of our students at Mother Seton School.

### Classroom Briefs...

Pastor Appreciation Day - April 21st marked a celebration of National Pastor Appreciation Day. Mrs. Bernadette Barnes' 3rd-grade class decorated posters to our many pastors who support our Catholic education at Mother Seton School.

Grandparents' Day - Mrs. Murphy's 3rd graders interviewed their various grandparents and wrote their autobiography. On Friday, April 25th, grandparents were invited to listen to these wonderful stories.

Arbor Day Community Service Project - Mrs. Topley's and Mrs.



The Mother Seton School Band won a 1st Place rating at a band competition for schools in the Baltimore Archdiocese area. Photo by Val Mentzer.

Daugherty's 5th-grade classes participated in an Arbor Day Community Service Project along with Emmitsburg Elementary to plant trees in the community park. Some of the 5th graders also lent a helping hand at the Vigilant Hose

Company to offer community service to the town of Emmitsburg. Students were rewarded for their hard work with a picnic lunch in the park.



Kelliann Caulfield, Caitlin Ott, Robbie White, and Jared Rogers present their thanks to Fr. Michael Kennedy in celebration of National Pastors Appreciation Day, April 21, 1997. Photo courtesy Val Mentzer

## EMMITSBURG CARNIVAL at MOTHER SETON SCHOOL

MAY 19 - 24

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## NATIONAL HERB WEEK TO CELEBRATE THYME

By Tom and Madeline Wajda

During National Herb Week (May 3-10) cooks, gardeners, and even landscapers will be celebrating Thyme as the Herb of the Year. Our use of thyme goes back thousands of years. In ancient Greece and Rome it was an especially important medicinal herb. Thyme also symbolized bravery and courage. In medieval Christianity thyme was a sign of the courage of Christ; today, live Advent wreaths still include thyme.

Thyme has long been a favorite in the kitchen where different varieties are used for flavoring everything from soups and stews to cookies and cakes. The most common culinary thymes are the French and English varieties. Either can be used to flavor a wide range of dishes. Lemon thyme adds a delightful taste to chicken and fish. It is also a superior ingredient in cookies and pound cake.

Nicholas Culpepper, the 17th century English herbalist praised thyme as "a notable strengthener of the lungs" and said it was the best remedy for whooping cough. Recent research has found that thyme oil is a strong antiseptic and that one of its constituent elements, thymol, is a very effective antifungal. Thyme infusions are used for minor throat and chest infections, and chewing fresh thyme leaves is recommended by some to relieve sore throats.

### Thyme for the Garden

In addition to its cooking and medicinal properties, thyme is a great landscape plant. There are several

dozen varieties in size and colors to meet practically every landscaping need. Silver, Golden, and Yellow Transparent thymes are delightful accent plants. Thyme Minus, Elfin, Coconut, Quint, and Doretta Kleber are very low-growing cultivars; they are impressive in rock gardens or growing between bricks or flagstones in a sidewalk. Woolly Mother of Thyme grows into a soft moss-like cushion. Consider using it to create a thyme bench where you can sit and enjoy your garden while savoring the fragrance of crushed thyme leaves.

Ideally, thyme likes full sun, but it will usually do well with six hours of sunshine a day. Thyme does not require much water nor is it very particular about the soil it grows in. However, it does best in slightly sandy soils. Although they are perennials, the culinary thymes tend to suffer from winter wind burn. For best results they should be mulched with straw or leaves in late November and uncovered in early March. Wind burn is usually not a problem for Thyme Minus and the other low growing varieties.

Interestingly, deer and rabbits do not appear to share our human appreciation for the taste of thyme.

### Carrot Soup With Thyme

2 pounds carrots, chopped coarse  
1 medium onion, diced  
4 Tbsp. butter  
6 cups chicken or vegetable stock  
Bouquet garni (6 parsley sprigs, 3 thyme sprigs and 6-8 black peppercorns)

Salt and freshly ground pepper

Freshly ground nutmeg

- 1 Tbsp. thyme leaves or blossoms, chopped fine
- 2 Tbsp. chopped parsley

Sauté carrots and onions in the butter in a soup pot, covered, over low heat for about 15 minutes. Add the stock and bring the soup to a simmer. Add bouquet garni and simmer

about 20 minutes. Remove bouquet garni and puree the soup in batches. Season with salt, pepper and nutmeg. Reheat soup over low heat and serve in warm soup bowls garnished with chopped thyme and chopped parsley. For a richer soup add one cup of cream before reheating.

Master Gardener Tom Wajda and his wife Madeline own Willow Pond Farm in Fairfield, PA

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## FRESH WATER FISH, THE PET

By Jack H. Deatherage, Jr.

I listened with pleasure to Leo Medford's North Carolina native accent as we talked to each other over a concrete tank of African Cichlids on her 2-acre fish farm in Florida. She warned me about people who wouldn't listen to advice from knowledgeable fish keepers. After 30 years in the fish business, she had given up trying to educate her customers.

"Jack," she said, "you tell them what they need to know and sell them more fish after they've killed the first ones they buy from you. They won't listen to me, or you, so they have to keep replacing fish. That's how I've stayed in the business so long. They won't listen."

Being fairly new to the hobby at that time I suspected Leo was "burnt out" from dealing with decades' worth of ignorant know-it-alls. I, of course, would deal with a different type of customer: a more thoughtful, attentive, and caring group of people.

HA!

Since I began writing this column I've met several people who've bothered to read it and who actually keep fish. They understand the basics of fish keeping and, like me, are experimenting with various filters, stocking quantities, groupings of species, and breeding methods. We probably have more questions than answers, but I think we've aided each other when problems have arisen.

But everyone *else* who has called me.... "My fish are dying." After an hour on the phone I learn that they have put 20 "small" fish into a tank that works well with 10. Of course the tank has been set up for only a week. The bacteria needed to biologically filter the system haven't had a

chance to grow to meet the ammonia load. "Hunh? What ammonia?"

"I've got this catfish a friend gave me and it's gotten big and is eating all my other fish." I look up the bugger in a fish atlas and find "channel catfish": 24+ inches in length, aggressive. The desperate catfish owner didn't know there was a book available for fish identification. I advised them to "give" the fish back to the "friend." Of course the friend doesn't want it or can't take it, having set up a nice "peaceful" community tank since getting rid of the catfish.

"I've got 5 'Oscars' in a big tank. What other fish can I put in with them?" How big is big? "It's big! 20 gallons!" I explain that 20 gallons is not BIG to even one "Oscar." A pair do well in 55 gallons of water and have successfully mated in such a tank. A 20-gallon tank is fine for small "Oscars," but "Oscars" don't stay small.

My ears ache after hours spent on the phone trying to explain why aquariums have to have water changes, why the "Nitrogen Cycle" should be understood and dealt with appropriately, and why everyone keeping even a carnival goldfish should have a book that explains the most basic needs of fish.

I've been laughed at by people who've ignored my advice. "See, the fish are fine. I didn't have to follow your advice. You were wrong." Of course a year down the road, they lose all the fish and can't understand why. I know why, and if they ask politely I explain it all again, though I realize Leo was right. They don't listen.



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