

## Covering the Emmitsburg Region

# The DISPATCH

Vol.V, No. 3

Gaining Strength from One Another

March 1998

### Town Mourns Loss of Top Volunteer



Engine 63, bearing Tom Topper's casket, pauses under the Aerial Arch formed by Towers 6 and 1 as fellow volunteers of the Vigilant Hose Company and the Emmitsburg Ambulance Company give their last salute. A Dispatch Photo

Thomas L. Topper, well-known and well-respected member of the Emmitsburg community and the Frederick County emergency services died February 3, 1998, from cancer. He was 45.

Tom was a dedicated member of Vigilant Hose Company since 1974 and served as an assistant chief for six years.

He had the distinction of being one of the thirteen original Advanced Life Support providers of Frederick County and had received Meritorious Awards for rescues in which he participated during flooding conditions.

He was on the national registry of EMT-Paramedics and was a CPR

and AED instructor. He was a Life Member of the Emmitsburg Ambulance Company and served as chief for the past ten years.

He is the third member of local volunteer emergency services to die in recent months. The town is still mourning the death of Greg Hollinger who died January 20, 1998, and the death of David Copenhaver on October 28, 1997.

"Their losses are immense," said Wayne Powell, VHC Information Officer. "As is true for all three of them, Tom will be greatly missed by his family, his extended family in fire and EMS, and the greater Emmitsburg Community which he worked tirelessly to serve."

### Ask your candidates

*Aren't there questions you have always wanted to ask the people running for mayor and commissioners of our town? Have you ever wondered why they believe they are qualified to make decisions that affect our lives? Are you concerned about the issues on which they will focus? You will get the chance to ask those questions soon.*

A candidates' forum will be held Saturday, April 18<sup>th</sup>, from 10 am to noon at the Community Center. People running for Mayor of Emmitsburg and for the two open Town Commissioners' seats will be invited to attend the forum, which is co-hosted by the Emmitsburg

Please see Forum on page 2

### Mayor Carr seeks third term

Emmitsburg Mayor William H. Carr announced this week his intention to seek a third term as mayor of Emmitsburg in the upcoming April town election.

"The town is beginning to 'turn the corner' and I would like to see some of the important projects through to completion," said Carr.

"I am especially interested in firming up the Community Center plans for renovation, use, and finances. We also need to get the library situation designed as best we can," said Carr. "The Board of County Commissioners has been supportive of this project that means so much to the town, and I would like to complete the job with them."

"I think we have gotten the attention of the school board and county commissioners on the school issue, but there is so much more still to do and I would like to see it through however it turns out," Carr said.

The town of Emmitsburg has been involved in long and slow negotiations with the Maryland Department of the Environment regarding funding for developing new ground water sources. "There is a great need to get this project completed," said Carr. "Over the period from 1969 to 1998 the growth rate of Emmitsburg has been about 2.5%. Over the same period the inflation rate has been about 6%. The town is being asked to provide services to the citizens based on a 1969 income. We need a broader tax base and water and schools are the key to the town's growth."

"Emmitsburg is moving into an exciting time but we must remain fiscally responsible and we can, through organized and reasonable growth," Carr said.

Carr was first elected to the town council in 1991 and has served as mayor of the town of Emmitsburg for 2 terms.

### JAMES E. HOOVER RUNS FOR EMMITSBURG COMMISSIONER

#### Qualifications:

Silo Hill resident for past two and a half years  
Vice President, Streets and Transportation Committee  
Alternate Member, Planning and Zoning Committee  
Member, Emmitsburg Lions Club  
Worked with Committee to "Bring Back our Children"

#### Why I Want To Be Commissioner

I see Emmitsburg as a unique town with many assets. With the current growth spurt in our area we need to prepare our town for the future.

We need to:

- Regulate what commercial developers can develop adjacent to residential property;
- Save our small town image;
- Make room for new development. Emmitsburg needs commercial businesses (small and large), without them our taxes will go up;
- Provide the children with more activities within our community;
- Improve traffic enforcement.



## Letters to the Editor

The *Dispatch* encourages its readers to express their thought about issues that appear in this paper or affect the community. Letters must be exclusive to the *Dispatch*. They should be brief and must be signed and include the writer's address and daytime phone number to be used for verification. Deadline for letters is the 3rd Thursday of each month.

### Concerned about the youth

It does indeed take a community to raise a child. The key word is community. We are losing our teenagers. Each year there are more and more teenagers hanging out on the streets of this town, and the sad part is that they are getting younger and younger. The problems are getting more and more serious.

You really don't need me to point this out, you can see it for yourself. Emmitsburg is a growing, thriving community, but we are losing our teens. It is not always the parents' fault. It is not just the single parent homes but also the two-parent home. Not just the low-income families but also the middle and high-income families. It's really not even the children's fault, it is boredom with a capital B.

There are over 10 households in this town that have to deal with the juvenile justice department, and I am sure it is more than that because of their child. This should indicate that there is something seriously wrong, and No it is not always the parents' fault or the background that they come from.

What I am asking for is that the community start getting involved in helping these children. We should start by taking a no-tolerance policy:

1. Teenagers hanging around a house or apartment where there is no adult supervision.
2. Hanging in the laundromat should be a no-no.
3. Lowering the curfew and enforcing.
4. Have teens doing community services such as painting hydrants, taking care of parks, pavilions and such.

I understand that Walkersville is very successful with their community policing. But again the key word is community—instead of criticizing or ignoring the problem, we need to get out there and start doing something now.

Officer Derry, myself, and other parents will be meeting soon to discuss other possibilities, but this is certainly a community project. Honestly, I feel that this has to be of the utmost importance for this is our future in the community.

LINDA OTT, Emmitsburg

### A special note of thanks

The parents and family members of Hunter Clayton "Punkin Head" McManus would like to give thanks to everyone including the Lewistown Fire Department personnel, the Walkersville ambulance personnel, the Frederick Memorial Hospital doctors and staff, Robert E. Dailey funeral

home and staff in Thurmont and all of our family and friends who have been there for us in our time of need, and making each day a little easier. On Christmas Day everyone put their Christmas to the side for us and helped try to save the life of Hunter. We deeply appreciate all the donations, cards, flowers, and prayers that you have sent our way.

### Forum from page 1

Business and Professional Association (EBPA) and *The Regional Dispatch*.

Ask Your Candidates! will feature a 3-minute presentation by each candidate, a 20 to 30-minute session in which they will respond to questions from a moderator, and then an open forum in which questions will be taken from the audience.

The co-hosts hope this will

be a good opportunity for the candidates to reach out to the people of the town as well as a chance for citizens to get the information they need to make good decisions about their vote in April. In fact, we welcome your input! If you have questions that you would like to have considered for the session led by the moderator, please e-mail them to the\_dispatch@msn.com or mail them to *The Dispatch*, 10635 Harney Road, Emmitsburg, MD 21727.

## Town News...

A concerned mother told the mayor and commissioners at the February town meeting that the town needed to do something for the young people.

"We're losing our teen-agers," Linda Ott told the council, "and the problems are becoming more serious." She said there were ten families in town currently dealing with juvenile justice authorities.

She urged all residents to get involved and suggested a "no tolerance policy" and a lower curfew. Youths now have to be off the street at 10 p.m. on weekdays and 11 p.m. on weekends.

The commissioners agreed there was a need for more youth activities and will continue to review the situation. Resident Hope Mahoney said that a citizen's committee is also working on the problem.

In other public comments, resident Ed Adlesberger said he was concerned and saddened by the way Community Park was being developed. He told the commissioners that a Master Plan for the development of the park was made, at a cost of several thousand dollars, in 1987, and he wanted to know why it was not being followed. The plan called for an amphitheater (band

shell) to be built in the area south of the swimming pool.

Yvette Krietz said the reason the plan had not been followed was because of wetland determinations which made it necessary to move things around. The council agreed to have the Parks and Recreation Commission study the plans and see what can be done.

In other business the commissioners:

- appointed Gene Myers to the Planning and Zoning Commission for another five-year term, and James Hoover as an alternate member of the commission;

- appointed Patrick Brennen and Phil Postelle as a member on the Board of Appeals for a three-year term, and Diane Walbrecker as an alternate;

- appointed Diana Snow to the Streets and Transportation Committee;

- and reappointed all seven members of the Parks and Recreation Committee for a two-year term: Clifford Sweeney, Pat Boyle, Carolyn Miller, Gene Myers, Ann Gingell, Bill Jones, and Diana Hoover.

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## Phone survey for a better community

By Laurie Sheffield-James

Between March 10 and March 24 the Emmitsburg Coalition for a Better Community may be calling your house to ask you to complete a telephone survey. The purpose of this survey will be to assess programmatic and service needs that will lead to family strengthening and strengthening of the Emmitsburg community. "Your participation in the telephone survey will be vital if the survey's results are accurately to identify program and resources critical to families in the northern part of Frederick County," said Laurie Sheffield-James, Director of Up-County Family Center.

The survey will take about 15 minutes of your time. All phone numbers will be randomly selected by computer and all telephone responses will be anonymous and confidential. Home visits will be made to families who have no phone, with the survey administered in the home.

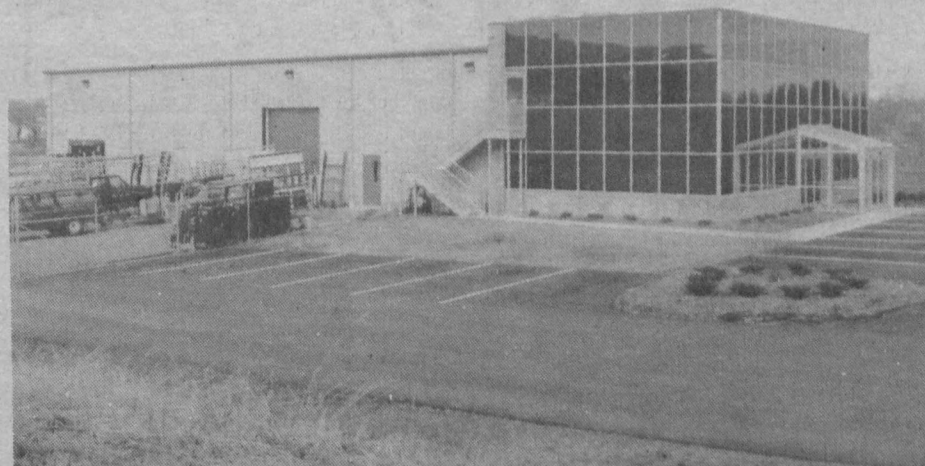
Thurmont Middle School and Catocin High School have agreed to administer a revised survey in selected classes.

The result of the survey, along with a plan that includes programs and services designed to address community needs, will be presented to the community at a public meeting to be scheduled later in the spring.

Coalition members include Catocin CASS Program, Central Md. Catholic Charities, Emmitsburg Child Care Center, Emmitsburg Elementary School, Mount St. Mary's College, Seton Center Outreach, Town of Emmitsburg, Up-County Family Center, United Way of Frederick County, and YMCA Catocin Community Clubhouse.

Additional information may be obtained at United Way at 301-6634231, Up-County Family Center, 301-447-2810, or the town of Emmitsburg at 301-447-2313.

## Emmitsburg Glass - a growing local company



Emmitsburg Glass Company is the first light industry to move into Emmitsburg East Industrial Park on Creamery Road. *A Dispatch Photo*

The Emmitsburg Glass Co., formerly Emmitsburg Panes, Inc., recently held an open house at its new location on Creamery Road.

The company, which has been in business 10 years, was located for the last 6 years at Castle Farms on Sixes Bridge Road. Dan Reaver, president of the company, said they invited customers and competitors to their open house, "not so much to show off our new facility as to get rid of the image of us working out of a barn."

The modern glass-walled office building, with a 5,000 sq. ft. shop, is located just off U.S. 15.

"Our geographic location allows us to serve efficiently customers in the Washington, Baltimore, and Harrisburg area," said Mr. Reaver. The company focuses primarily on commercial projects such as hotels and office buildings. Locally, the company has installed the glass at St. Catherine's Nursing Home in Emmitsburg, and for Medimmune Manufacturing and F&M Bank Headquarters in Frederick.

The company employs approximately 35 people from the surrounding area. Greg Reaver, brother of Dan, is vice president of the company.

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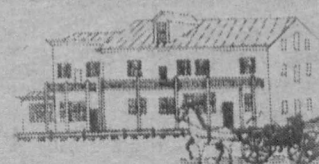
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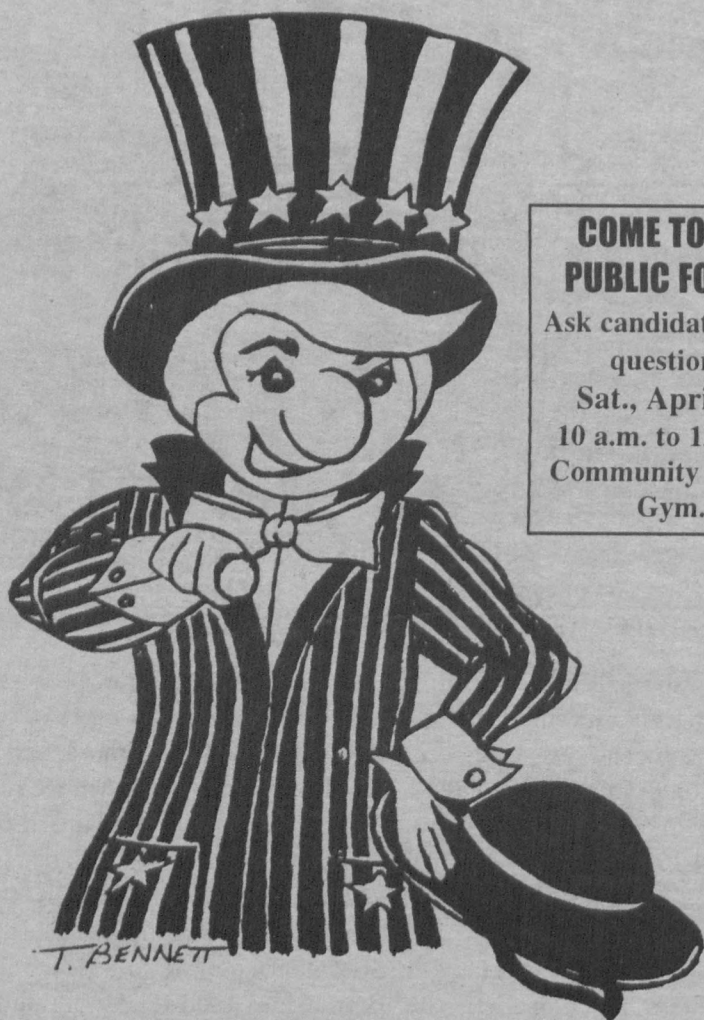
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## Uncle Emmit wants you!



### COME TO THE PUBLIC FORUM

Ask candidates your questions.

Sat., April 18,  
10 a.m. to 12 noon  
Community Center  
Gym.

## 100 Years Ago "In this place"

from the *Emmitsburg Chronicle*

### Wide Tires Required

March 4, 1898 - A circular issued by the Gettysburg Battlefield Commission to the Liveryman concerning the width of tires upon wagons or carriages used for the purpose of conveying tourists over the avenues of the Battlefield, directs that they must conform to the following measurements: 4-horse wagon, 2½ inch tire; 2-horse wagon, 10 people, 2 inch tire.

### Washington's Birthday Celebration

The young people of Emmitsburg celebrated the 22 of February in a fitting manner under the auspices of Emmitsburg Social Club, in Jr. Mechanics Hall. The guests were all in costumes of by-gone days. Many of the ladies appearing in the rich silks worn by their grandmothers 50 or 70 years ago. The gentlemen appeared in colonial costumes. The hall was tastefully decorated with flags, and

the young people in their quaint costumes looked very attractive and seemed to the beholder as though the characters as given in pictures of the olden times had stepped from the engraving into real life. The evening was spent in sociability and dancing. Refreshments were served in the hall. Among those present were: Mrs. Geo. H. Cook, Miss Helen Annan, Miss Emily Annan, Miss Sarah Annan, Miss Alice Annan, Miss Anna Annan, Miss Clara Bankert, Miss Helen Hoke, Miss Hattie White, Miss Mary McNair, Miss Ruth Hoke, Miss Bessie Hoke, Miss Marian Hoke, Miss Eva Shulenberger, and Miss Rachel Shulenberger. Messrs. Geo. H. Cook, E.L. Annan, I.M. Annan, R.L. Annan Jr., A.A. Horner, L.M. Maxell, G. Lloyd Palmer, C.R. Hoke, Andrew Annan, Wm. Bennett, L.M. Zimmerman, and T.E. Zimmerman.

### Gas Machine Perfected

March 25, 1898 - Messrs. J.T. Hays & Son have perfected their gas machine and claim to have the most perfect machine made, doing all that could be desired. They have been experimenting on machines for about four months, by all the means and methods they could devise, as the cast aside machines fully show. They now claim to fully understand the character of calcium of carbide, which they say is one of the most essential parts to know, and further claim that they have the correct principle upon which it can be generated into gas.

They have spent money and time in experimenting, but feel fully rewarded in having perfected a machine that will generate the gas automatically and effectually, and for simplicity there is nothing to equal it. The dangers of other machines have been overcome, which they will fully demonstrate; and the cost of the machine has been reduced so low that all of small means may have gas light at small cost, and in many respects superior to electric light. They have a machine now working which furnished light for their place of business and two dwellings, and will soon be ready to place their machines on sale.

## 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.

The Emmitsburg Regional Dispatch  
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## Commentary: Ambulance Company celebrates 50 years You've come a long way baby!

Fifty years ago in this place doctors, families, and neighbors would pack ill, injured, or pregnant people into their cars and head for the hospital.

Following WWII a returning group of concerned veterans saw the need for ambulance services. On Feb. 4, 1948, the Emmitsburg VFW Post 6658 voted to purchase an ambulance and thus became the first VFW company in the United States to finance and man a community ambulance service.

Ethel Hoke became the first local resident to ride in the new white Cadillac ambulance when she was chauffeured to Gettysburg Hospital by Tom Gingell in time for the birth of her son Jack. During these years the ambulance was parked at various locations including the fire hall and private garages scattered around town. This was not always the most convenient arrangement. Ask Mike Boyle who had to run around town to find it in order to answer an emergency call.

Fifty years has brought a radical and dramatic change to the now Emmitsburg Ambulance Company. Today's crews are trained to administer the type of emergency care that was then available only in the first 30 minutes at the hospital. CPR is a standard procedure known by many residents in the area. The three emergency vehicles are fully equipped with the latest rescue and emergency equipment. Communication is by radio.

On the Ambulance Company's 50th anniversary all of us should be appreciative of the work and dedication of the "chairmen" of the VFW Ambulance Corps: Gene Kramer, "Jersey" Eyler, Lumen Norris, Guy Baker and Leo Boyle. And to life members for their outstanding service: Donald Byard, Mike Boyle, Jim Kittinger, Larry Little, Donald Pastorette, Sam Cool, Barney Gingell, Carl Angleberger, June Hoke, Jack Hoke, Tom Topper, David Copenhaver, and Paul Humerick.

Happy anniversary!



## Emmitsburg Arts League Announces March Show

The Emmitsburg Arts League is planning a bigger-than-ever member show to be held March 4-31 in the Media Room of the Emmitsburg Library.

All works by members that

have not been shown in a previous EAL show are eligible. Ribbons will be awarded by popular vote. The opening reception is Sunday, March 8 from 2 - 5 p.m.

### Come Join the Celebration of the Re-Opening of the Community Center

Tuesday, March 24, 1998 - 2:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Emmitsburg Community Center  
300 South Seton Avenue  
Emmitsburg, Maryland

Come see the recently completed Community Center and visit with the staff of programs housed there: Emmitsburg Library, Senior Center, CASS, Health Department, Food Bank, Arts Council, Visitor Center, and Sheriff's Department.

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## Library volunteers recognized for long and productive service



Francis Smith (l), Mary Hoke, and Sheila Chatlos are honored for their service to the library at a February meeting. *A Dispatch Photo*

Members of the library staff, library advisory board, and volunteers gathered in February to salute and honor the service of three significant people associated with the Emmitsburg Library: Mary Hoke, Sheila Chatlos, and Francis Smith.

"This is a wonderful time," said librarian Kate Warthen. "It is a celebration of three wonderful people who have given so generously of their time and talents; they have been loyal to this library for many years. These people have set a wonderful example for all of us in the community."

Mary Hoke is being honored for serving the Emmitsburg library for 68 years of service; as librarian, secretary/treasurer, and treasurer of the Library Board. Mary was noted for the meticulous detail and dedication with which she always carried out her duties. But there was more... "She baked many a chicken dinner and lunches for people

giving programs at Emmitsburg library who didn't have time to go out to lunch," said Kate Warthen.

Sheila Chatlos became associated with the Library Board in 1961 serving as secretary until her retirement in 1997. Sheila researched the old issues of the *Emmitsburg Chronicle* and compiled the history of the Emmitsburg library for the bi-centennial celebration. "Sheila was our mainstay of the children's story hour through the program's early years," said Warthen.

"You have to be careful not to miss meetings," said retiring president Francis Smith. "Ten years ago I missed the second meeting of my association with the library and was elected president." Francis was more than a loyal officer for his ten-year tenure; he arranged special Senior Citizen art exhibits and designed library publications and invitations. Currently Francis is scheduled to lead a poetry workshop at the library in April.

## Library News - popular programs offered

**March Preschool Storytime** for ages 3 to 5 begins March 4, and continues to March 26. Children can come either Wednesdays at 7 p.m. or Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. March 4 and 5 are Pajamas Days and kids can wear their PJs to the library if they wish. Other topics are March 11 & 12-Stories about GREEN; March 18 & 19 -Springtime Stories; and March 25 & 26 - I Hear Music.

Get answers to your gardening problems and questions at **Spring Gardening Clinic** on Saturday, March 14, at 10:30 a.m. Master gardeners Rena Damskey and Elizabeth Prongas will discuss a variety of topics including how to

start a perennial garden, planting with raised beds, controlling pests, and tips for vegetable gardens. Handouts will be available. Receive a free perennial.

Call now to register and get books for **Images of Romantic Love** reading and discussion series. Programs take place every two weeks beginning March 20, 1-2:30. The series consists of: *Madame Bovary*, *The Awakening*, *The End of the Affair*, *Morgan's Passing*, *A Mother and Two Daughters*. To get information or to register for any of these programs, call Walkersville Branch of Frederick County Public Libraries at 301-845-8880.



## Senior Citizens' News

By Linda Umbel

What will March bring?

In spite of all the rain in February it was sunny at the Senior Center. Exercise is in full swing with nine faithful ladies and occasionally a gentleman exercising on Monday and Wednesday mornings. Come join in the 11:30 a.m. sessions.

The ladies have another quilt started and are working on Wednesdays. If you like to quilt or would like to learn come in any day Monday-Friday and put in some "stitching time."

We are now alternating cards

and bingo on Thursdays. The first session will be cards starting Thursday, March 5.

On Tuesday, March 31, a guest speaker will be here from the Health Department. The topic will be "Life in a Bag." Come join us. You will be surprised.

Time is fast approaching for the April 16th bus trip to the Rainbow Dinner Theater. The cost is \$40 per ticket. The deadline is April 1st. Remember *You Can't Take it With You!*

Food & Friends Reminder: On Wednesday March 4 and Thursday March 5 there will no meals served due to staff conferences.

## Whose responsibility is your health?

by Jeanne Angleberger

Perhaps you simply haven't thought about it. If life seems not to be interrupted one tends to have the same practices day after day. Therefore, you may not be aware of habits that could sometimes create unhealthiness in your life. Should your health be your personal responsibility?

Absolutely! What should you do about it? Tend to your health. Awareness is the first step. Begin to attend to your health. Decide and make the commitment, the sooner

the better!

Invite yourself to the Emmitsburg Lions Club Health Fair, Saturday, April 4. It's an excellent way to begin! Find out about your health!

Prevention is cheaper than treatment. It seems to make sense to try and prevent an unhealthy condition. Think about it... *If* you focus on a healthy body and mind, you probably will begin to practice healthful habits.

I believe your health is your personal responsibility and deserves your attention, now and always.

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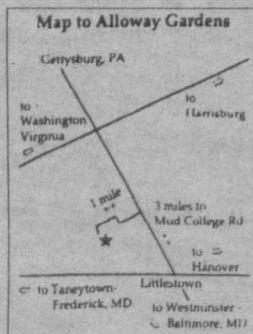
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## Emmitsburg Lions Club Health Fair Slated for April 4

The 15th annual Emmitsburg Lions Club health fair will be held on Saturday, April 4, 1998 from 7:30-11:00 a.m. at the Mother Seton Elementary School in Emmitsburg, Maryland.

The health fair features several important screening services, many of which are recommended to be done on an annual basis. The Gettysburg Hospital is offering a multiphasic blood screening (MBS) which focuses on early detection. The program consists of a series of blood tests which are used to monitor the functioning of the major body organs including the high density lipoprotein (HDL) test, valuable in predicting the risk of coronary heart disease; and a complete blood count (CBC), used in the diagnosis of infection and anemia. Other tests include glucose, cholesterol and triglycerides, uric acid, and electrolytes, including potassium, which can determine dehydration.

A fast of 10-12 hours is required before a blood sample can be taken. The program is being offered to health fair participants for \$25.

In addition to the MBS, the

Hospital is offering two optional blood tests. The prostate-specific antigen (PSA) blood test is recommended for men over the age of 50 as a preventative measure against prostate cancer. The cost of the PSA blood test is \$15.00. The second is the sensitive thyroid stimulating hormone (TSH) blood test. This test is used in the early detection of thyroid disease. The cost of the TSH blood test is \$10.00.

In continuing with their tradition of a comprehensive health screening, the Lions Club will also offer the following free screenings: blood pressure, vision, hearing, height and weight measurement, oxygen saturation levels, foot exam, oral cancer check, glaucoma screening, spinal evaluation, and massage therapy.

Gettysburg Rehab, the physical medicine and rehabilitation department of The Gettysburg Hospital, will also be offering a free grip-strength screening.

For more information, on the 15th annual Emmitsburg Lions Club health fair, contact George Rosensteel at 301-447-2562.



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## 1998 Women's Fair: Women of Frederick—250 Years of Strength and Community

The 14th annual Frederick County Women's Fair, to be held March 15, will feature over 40 informative workshops, plus displays and demonstrations. The fair will take place from 10 a.m. till 5 p.m. at Gov. Thomas Johnson High School, in Frederick, Maryland.

New this year: at the start of the fair, participants will have a chance to meet some of "Frederick's First Women," professionals who were first, or early pioneers in their field. Some of these professionals include Susan Thornton (theatrical entrepreneur), Patricia Stanley (president of FCC), Karen Blood (technology entrepreneur), Ramona Remsburg (bank president), Mary Storm and Cleopatra Campbell (lawyers).

Learn about Frederick's past with a workshop about the Civil War, or plan your own future with a workshop titled "Get Out of that Rut!" Whether you're a profession-

al, a stay-at-home mother, unemployed, a student, or retired, the fair will offer something to address your interests and needs.

This year's fair, organized by volunteers who represent local non-profit organizations, is an official part of Frederick County's 250th Celebration. Network with women of all ages, of diverse talents and backgrounds. Browse the exhibit area and discover a variety of organizations and businesses that provide information, resources, and support. Find out what Frederick County has to offer!

Entrance fees are \$5 paid in advance and \$7 at the door and include all workshops. Low-cost babysitting is available, as are scholarships for those who cannot afford the fair's entrance fee. To find out more about the Women's Fair, call (301) 620-2588.

## New Jaycees Chapter forming in Thurmont/Emmitsburg

The United States Junior Chamber of Commerce is pleased to announce the birth of a new chapter of Jaycees in the Thurmont/Emmitsburg area.

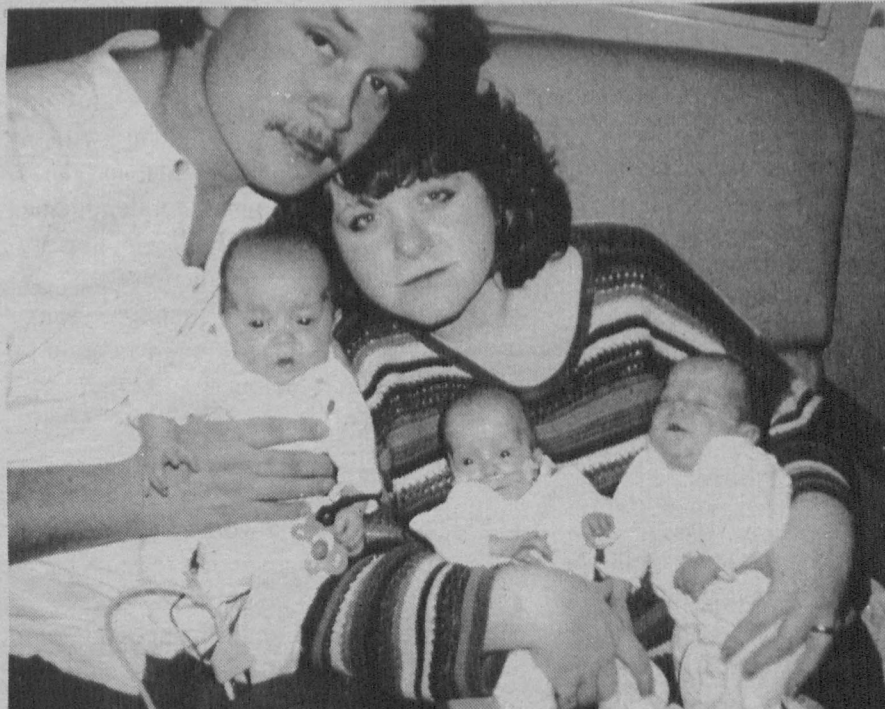
The Jaycees will hold a tax seminar (open to the public) and organizational meeting on Thursday, March 5th at 7:30. The meeting will be at the Cozy Inn at 103 Frederick Road in Thurmont. Featured speaker will be Alice Orzechowski, CPA, of OAO CPAs, LLC in Frederick. Ms. Orzechowski will be speaking on

the new tax laws.

The Junior Chamber of Commerce is an organization for young women and men, ages 21 to 30. It provides active members the opportunity to develop their leadership and management skills through community service projects and programs.

Interested persons can contact the Frederick Jaycees at 301-663-4432 for more information on this dynamic organization.

## Home at last



These three natural miracle babies were born to Tommy and Jessica (Peel) Cupp of Emmitsburg on September 12, 1997. Born 14 weeks premature at University of Maryland Hospital, Sarah Elizabeth, 1 lb., 4 oz.; Margaret Ellen, 1 lb., 10 oz.; and Aliza Elaine 1 lb., 11 oz., fought long and hard to survive the first few months of their lives.

Finally after 5½ months, things are going better now. All three girls are home safe. Margaret and Aliza both weigh over 7 lbs and Sarah weighs 5 lbs.

The entire family would like to thank everyone for their sincere thoughts and prayers through this most difficult time.

### Thank You

The Hance family expresses its sincerest appreciation for all the flowers, cards, and prayers shared with us during the passing of JoAnn.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

The Hance Family

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## Mount set for Scholarship Appreciation Day at Emmitsburg Presbyterian Church

Five years ago Mount Saint Mary's College received a generous \$25,000 endowed scholarship from the congregation of the Emmitsburg Presbyterian Church.

"The idea was hatched by Gerald Griffin, one of the elders of the church, as a service to the community, and agreed upon unanimously by the church membership," said the Rev. R. Benjamin Jones, the congregation's pastor.

Since then the church members have added \$1,000 annually to the fund and the total sum now stands at \$30,000. The interest from that amount is awarded annually to a worthy student at the Mount whose family lives in the Emmitsburg region.

To show appreciation for the congregation's generosity, members of the Mount community will participate in a special service at the church at 11 a.m. on April 5, Palm Sunday.

## FROM THE KITCHEN TO THE CLASSROOM: MARY ASHE-MAHR SUCCEEDS IN BOTH AREAS.

Mary Ashe-Mahr, recipient of the Emmitsburg Presbyterian Church scholarship at Mount Saint Mary's College, is equally adept at whipping up dinner for her family of five and at studying corporate finance.

Before she decided to return to school and obtain her undergraduate degree, Ashe-Mahr operated Culinary Creations, a catering company in Waynesboro, Pa. She had prepared for her career as a chef by obtaining a culinary arts degree from the Culinary Institute of America.

"I loved having my own business, but I thought by completing my college education and obtaining a bachelor's degree I'd have more career options. Knowledge is empowering," Ashe-Mahr said. That's when, three years ago at age 40 with three school-age children, she decided to return to school. Previously she had earned 90 hours of credits at Boston College and the Rhode Island School of Design, which were transferred to the Mount. "I remember Guy Baker (the Mount

Mary Ashe-Mahr, the current recipient of the scholarship, will address the congregation, and the 30-member Mount Chorale, directed by Andrew Rosenfeld, will sing at the service in conjunction with Alfred Gilbert, the church's organist and musical director. A reception for the church members and the students will follow in the church hall following the service.

"This is a wonderful way to show our appreciation to our Presbyterian neighbors who have shown such commitment and kindness to the College and the community," said George R. Houston, president of Mount Saint Mary's.

Emmitsburg Presbyterian Church, originally known as Tom's Creek Presbyterian Church, was founded in 1760, about 40 years before Father John DuBois started a Catholic parish and school which became Mount Saint Mary's College and Seminary in the early 1800's.

registrar, now retired ) telling me I could get a general degree at the Mount. But after I got involved in the school, and had some business courses, I decided to go for it and get a degree in business administration."

Ashe-Mahr currently carries a 3.8 grade average and has been on Dean's List the last two semesters as well as maintaining an active family life.

She lives in Waynesboro with her husband, Michael, a corporate chef for the Grove World Wide Manufacturing executive training center in Blue Ridge Summit, and their three children, Rachael, 15, and twin sons, Matthew and Justin, 13.

"One of the benefits of going back to school as a non-traditional student is that I think it is really motivating for my own children. They see how hard I have to work and what it takes to succeed in college. I have to stay really focused," she said.



Mount St. Mary's College chorale director Andy Rosenfeld rehearses a section of the Mount Chorale.  
Photo Courtesy Fr. Dan Nusbaum

## Recipients of the Emmitsburg Presbyterian Church scholarship at Mount Saint Mary's College

Award Criteria: Provided as a community service to assist and encourage worthy and aspiring young people who are pursuing baccalaureate degrees at Mount Saint Mary's, and whose families live in the Emmitsburg region.

1997-1998 --Mary F. Ashe-Mahr  
1996-1997 --Mary F. Ashe-Mahr  
1995-1996 --Jill Noffsinger  
1994-1995 --Heather Clabaugh  
& Vicki Sanders  
1993-1994 -- Doris Riser



Mary Ashe-Mahr

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## News from Triassic Park East

By Professor William Meredith

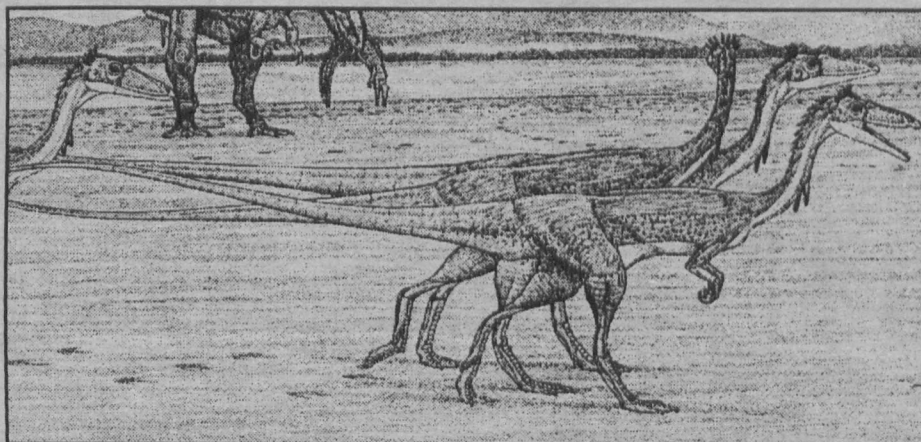
Digging out a foundation for a new house is not an unusual occurrence in the Silo Hill subdivision of Emmitsburg, and it did not seem like an unusual day about a month ago when Dr. Peter Kranz stopped there for a few minutes to do what paleontologists like best: poke about among freshly dug rocks. But what happened next was indeed unusual, for one of the rocks he picked up bore the imprint of a dinosaur's foot. The rock was about a foot square, and it took a trained eye to spot it; but close inspection showed a footprint with three toes, capped with short claws and connected by a web that gave it roughly the shape of a maple leaf.

As the author of a book on dinosaurs in Maryland, Dr. Kranz knew that there was only one other record of dinosaur tracks in the state. In 1895, James Mitchell, a professor at Mount St. Mary's College, published an article describing several specimens he had found at a quarry within a mile of Silo Hill. Mitchell had taken some of his specimens to Johns Hopkins University where he was doing graduate studies, and they appear to have been lost; but others still exist at the Mount and at the St. Joseph Provincial House. In the past few weeks they have been the subject of a number of newspaper articles and TV newscasts, and have raised questions in many people's minds as to how they came to be here.

The time we commonly call the "Age of Dinosaurs" is what paleontologists call the Mesozoic Era. It is divided into three parts: the Triassic Period, which lasted from about 245-208 million years ago; the Jurassic Period, 208-144 million years ago; and the Cretaceous Period, 144-65 million years ago. The track-bearing rocks found in Emmitsburg were formed in the Triassic, when most dinosaurs were small; the really big dinosaurs occurred much later in the Cretaceous period, long after the rocks around here were formed.

The world was a very different-looking place 220 million years ago; at that time the Atlantic Ocean did not exist. The land mass that was to

become North America was still attached to northwestern Africa, although the forces of plate tectonics had begun to pull it away. As the great continent-bearing plates of the earth's crust slowly pulled apart, the area that was to become Emmitsburg sank toward sea level, and the terrain was dotted with swamps and lakes. One of the common dinosaurs living in that region was



"Coelophysis"

Sketch from *Dinosaurs in Maryland*, Peter M. Kranz

*Coelophysis*, a small, carnivorous species about the size of a large turkey, with a tail that gave it a length of perhaps four feet. It walked on its hind legs, reminiscent of a miniature *Tyrannosaurus*. At some point a group of *Coelophysis*, or a species very much like it, walked across a mud flat near a swamp or lake, leaving their tracks behind them; and not long afterward a flood washed in a layer of silt which filled in the tracks, making casts of them. As time passed and the forces of continental drift progressed, the land sank lower, the region was buried deeper, and the sediments were compressed to form the shale that now lies just beneath the soils of Emmitsburg.

The land mass that was to form North America moved westward at the rate of a few centimeters per century—a seemingly slow rate, but over the span of 200 million years sufficient to create the Atlantic Ocean between the continent's present position and its starting point. As the ages passed, dinosaurs developed into larger and larger forms; these left many fossils in the western part of the U. S., but we have no records of them in Maryland. And finally, about 65 million years ago all of the dinosaurs became extinct. Although the cause of their disappearance is not known with certainty, the prevailing theory now is that

the earth was struck by a large meteor, which caused immense climatic changes in addition to the destruction immediately following its impact. Whatever happened, the tracks in the Triassic rocks remained hidden until Professor Mitchell found them just over a century ago.

In 1957, when I came to the Mount to teach biology, there was a slab of gray rock leaning against the wall in the biology lab. The senior professor at that time, Professor

Greco, told me it contained dinosaur tracks, and that it was there when he came in 1930. The tracks on the rock were fairly easy to see; they had three toes and probably were made by more than one individual, since they run in different directions. I learned later that this specimen was part of a large collection of rocks and fossils that Prof. Mitchell had amassed after he came to the college in 1888. The collection originally was housed in a large cabinet in the library, but when Mitchell died in 1902 there was no one with the expertise to maintain it; and since the space was needed by the library, the collection was stored, some in the library cellar and the rest in the science lab where

I found it. Being constitutionally incapable of throwing anything away, over the past 40 years I moved the rock with the tracks from one storage space to another and thus saved it from being lost; however, at some point it was dropped and broken into two pieces. It now rests in the college archives.

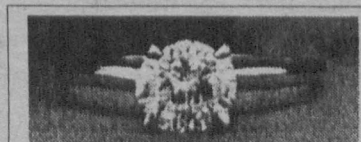
The specimen at the Provincial House has a similar history, though its origin is more unique. Sometime in the mid-1800's the Sisters at St. Joseph College built a sidewalk along "The Avenue" which led from the highway up to the college. The walk was made of large gray stones, over four feet square, and one of them was covered with three-toed tracks. For several years the Sisters passed over that rock on their daily walks, remarking about the "prehistoric creatures" that had trod there before them; and then around 1895 Prof. Mitchell arrived on the scene. He recognized the value of the fossil tracks and had the rock slab removed from the sidewalk. It was displayed at the college for a while but eventually it was stored away, and remained in obscurity until the media interest that followed Dr. Kranz's recent discovery.

The fossil found recently by Dr. Kranz is different in several respects. Professor Mitchell's fossils were in a gray rock, and were made by something like the land-dwelling *Coelophysis*. Dr. Kranz's find is a piece of red shale, and the track on it was made by a different species of dinosaur. Its webbed toes suggest that it probably spent most of its time in the water, but its name and appearance are not yet known.

*Dr. Meredith is a professor of Biology at Mount Saint Mary's College.*

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## Emmitsburg house tour planned for October

As part of the 250th anniversary celebration of Frederick County, all municipalities are having a one-day house tour. Southern Frederick County will have their house tours in May and northern Frederick County in October. Emmitsburg has been scheduled for Sunday, October 4, 1998, from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Proceeds from the sale of tickets in Emmitsburg, after expenses, will be donated to the town.

Twelve houses are on the tour, and Linda Postelle has agreed to give our readers an introduction to those homes that will be featured. She begins the series with a description of the Postelle residence on West Main Street and the Prongas Farm on Old Frederick Road.



The Postelle Residence, 207 W. Main Street, Emmitsburg, MD

Photo courtesy Linda Postelle

It is hard to date the exact year this structure was built. A late 19th century photograph of the house next door shows a different building attached to it.

The structure, now known as the adjoining residences of 205, 207, 209 and 211, was originally built to house Gelwick's Hardware Store and the Gelwick residence. The sections of 205 and 207, now the Postelles', were the store area.

No visible signs of the store remain except in the common attic where diamond shaped windows, each with a letter to spell Gelwick, are still visible from the inside. A cement floor in a basement room which seems to have been an addition has the words "Thom A. Gelwick, 1902" scratched into it.

The house has been home to the Hoke and King families over the years. What is now the kitchen and the downstairs bathroom are additions. The long narrow room which can be entered through 205 W. Main

St. was the town of Emmitsburg's first library.

Beautiful glass-paned doors separate the parlor from the entrance hall and double doors separate the parlor and the dining room. An ornate mantel outlines the wide dining room door. This was donated by a neighbor when their original old fireplace was removed.

The Postelles have added whimsical touches. Both the parlor and the master bedroom are adorned with fireplaces. While the mantels are real, they are bolted to the wall, and the rest of the fireplace is done with faux finishes, including touches of marble. The old kitchen cabinets are trailed with painted vines, pears, and a lizard here or there hiding in the greenery. Hairline cracks that keep reappearing in the walls have been turned into painted vines as well. There are also many pieces of painted furniture throughout the house.



The Prongas Farm, 14726 Old Frederick Road, Emmitsburg, MD

Sketch courtesy Elizabeth Prongas

The Prongas Farm is the original tenant house plus additions added in later year. The original tenant house is now the central part of the house. It consisted of two rooms downstairs and three rooms upstairs. The walls were three bricks thick all the way around. This section was built about 150 years ago. The most outstanding feature of the house is its position on the land. A beautiful unobstructed view of both the sunrise and the sunset can be enjoyed.

This property was known as the Hays Farm for many years. Mr. Hays owned the water plant in Emmitsburg. After the family moved out of the house they rented it to many other families who have told the present owners of fond memo-

ries.

Harry Prongas bought the farm in 1954 which consisted of 365 acres. He retained the tenant house for himself and sold the main house in the late 1960's. A sun room was added by Harry and Elizabeth Prongas about 12 years ago on the south side of the house and an art studio was added on the north side about eight years ago.

The house is basically functional as a cozy home and an art studio which reflects the personality of the owner. Incidentally an English Garden adjoining the house is in the first stages of development. Of course an traditional vegetable garden serves its purpose.

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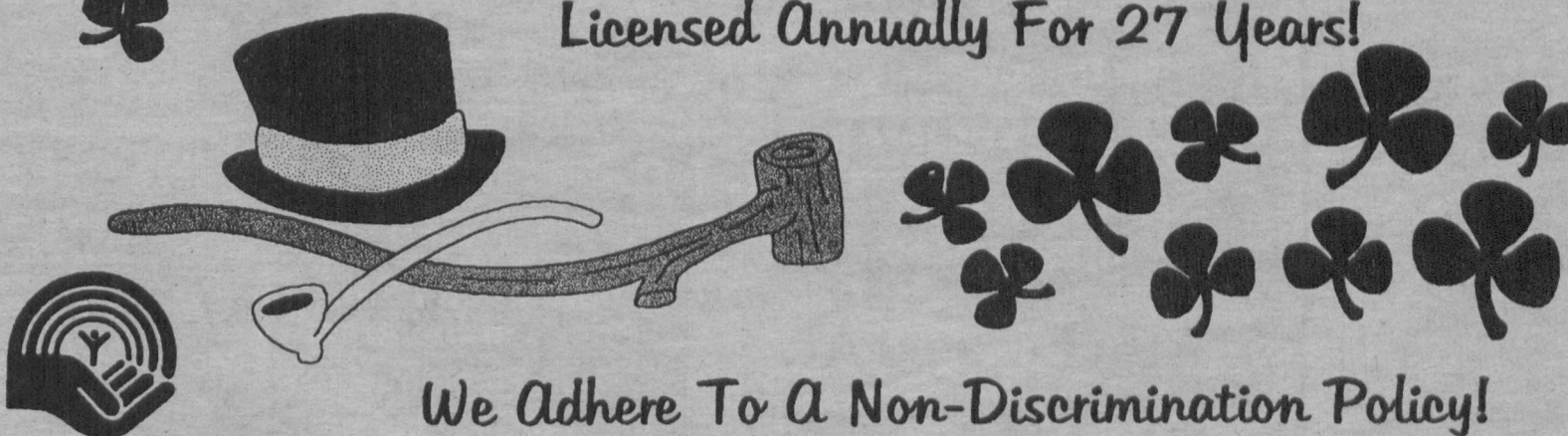
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## Looking Ahead

### Friday, March 6

**World Day of Prayer** will be observed at Incarnation Church at 2:30 p.m. Everyone is invited to attend. Refreshments will be served following the service.

### Saturday, March 7

**"A Night at the Races,"** sponsored by the Brute Council Knights of Columbus for the benefit of the Amy Eyler Van Fund, will be held from 6:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. at the K of C Council Home. Admission \$5.00 per person. Tickets available at the door. Admission includes all-you-can-eat buffet and draft beer. Horse racing videos and tip jars. Tickets limited to 75 due to space available.

### Monday, March 9

**A Stanley Party** will be held in the Fellowship Hall of the Incarnation Church at 7:00 p.m. Everyone is cordially invited. Refreshments will be served.

### Monday, March 9

**Women's Aglow meeting** will be held at Mountain Gate Restaurant in Thurmont, Md., with dinner at 6:15

p.m. General meeting at 7:15 p.m. Cost for buffet: \$7.00. Call for reservations by March 6: 301-447-2283 or 301-271-4346. The speaker will be Carol Miller who has attended a school of Inner Healing Ministry in England. Come and bring a friend and be blessed.

### Sunday, March 15

**A good old country breakfast** will be held at the Taneytown Rod & Gun Club, 12380 Shoemaker Road from 7 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Menu is pancakes, buckwheat cakes, sausage, eggs, homemade biscuits, toast, sausage gravy, chipped beef gravy, pudding & hominy, fried potatoes, hot cheese, hot apples, fruit cocktail, orange juice, and coffee. Adults: \$4.50. Children 8 to 12: \$3.00. If you are a member and show a paid-up membership card for 1998, you get 50 cents off. If the snow emergency plan is in effect, it will be held on March 22nd 7 a.m. To 11 a.m. For information call Godfrey or Florence at 410-751-1685

### March 23/26

Sub sale at the Mount Tabor

## Emmitsburg Little League news

By Marta Hillis

In case you forgot to sign up your son or daughter for Emmitsburg Little League baseball or softball, don't worry. You have one more chance. Final registration for all new and returning players will be Saturday, March 21 from 2:00 -4:00 pm at the ambulance building.

For those players moving from minor division up to the major division (i.e., age 9 by August 1) the try-out dates are scheduled for Monday & Tuesday, March 23 & 24 at 5:00 pm at the Little League field in front of Saylor's Stand/ press box. Players entering the minor division (7 years old by August 1) will have a try-out on Thursday, March 26 at the same location. Please mark your calendars!

There is still a great need for a concession stand manager (or several

co-managers) as well as umpires. Remember games cannot be played without umpires. Please consider volunteering. Contact Little League President Bill Wivell at 447-3766 if you are interested. High school and Mount students are welcome. This is a wonderful opportunity to serve your community.

The next L.L. officers' meeting will be Thursday, March 19 at 7:00 pm at Trinity United Methodist Church, 315 W. Main. Reports from all division vice presidents will be given. Those officers include Dean Torgerson (T-Ball division), Steve Lingg (minor division), Davy Wantz (major division), Mike Myers (senior division), and Terri Eyler (softball division). A final listing of the managers and coaches for the 1998 season will be presented and voted on for approval.

**United Church of Christ, Rocky Ridge.** Available are 12-inch ham & cheese subs for \$6 and 6-inch subs for \$3. **Sub orders are due March 23.** Sub pick up Thursday March 26 at 7:30. To order call Rosie Stambaugh 301-271-2649 or Viv Martin at 301-271-7858 after 5 p.m.

### Saturday, April 4

**15th Annual Emmitsburg Lions Club Health Fair** will be held from 7:30 - 11:00 a.m. at the Mother Seton Elementary School in Emmitsburg. (See article on page 6)

### FREE MEDICAL CARE MISSION OF MERCY

Mission of Mercy provides free medical care to anyone who is poor, homeless, uninsured or underinsured. Patients can make an appointment to see a medical doctor at any one of the following locations by calling the listed number:

**Taneytown Clinic Location:** St. Joseph's Catholic Church, 44 Frederick Street, Appointment: (410) 857-2999. Clinic Hours: Thurs., March 5, 8:30 a.m. -12:00 p.m., Thurs., March 19, 8:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m., Thurs., April 2, 8:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

**Thurmont Clinic Location:** Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church, Parish Hall, 103 North Church Street. Appointment: (301) 694-3733. Clinic Hours: Thurs., March 5, 1 pm -4 pm Thurs., March 19, 1 pm -4 pm Thurs., April 2, 1 pm -4 pm

**Gettysburg Clinic Location:** Gettysburg College, West Building, West Lincoln Ave. (extended). Appointment: (717) 337-6469. Clinic Hours: Thurs., March 12, 9:00 am -4:00 pm, Thurs., March 26, 9:00 am -4:00 pm



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## Stony Branch Valley: The First Settlers

By Mike Hillman

With the end of the French and Indian War, settlers once again began to move the wilderness frontier westward. Stony Branch, situated just north of the Monocacy Road, the major transit route for Dutch and German immigrants heading from Lancaster to settlements in the Shenandoah, was ripe for settlement. Full of streams and rolling hills, its picturesque countryside reminded many settlers of the homes they had left in Europe. The beauty of the land was further enhanced by its availability and cost and many settlers saw little reason to travel further.

The settlers had several options open to them for acquiring land. There was land for lease, for sale, and even some land left to homestead. Daniel Dulany, who held title to Buck Forest, a 3,300-acre tract of land which lies at the headwaters of Stony Branch, just to the east of Mount Saint Mary's, offered settlers leases on 100-acre lots at 5 pounds per year. There were a few stipulations, however, including requirements to plant 100 apple trees and install and maintain sturdy fencing. The leasers were then still faced with the arduous tasks of building a home and clearing the land. If they questioned whether this was a good or bad deal, they just needed to do a little mathematics to evaluate the true cost of the lease.

As it turns out, in 1770 an average day laborer earned about 2 ½ shillings a day. Twenty shillings made up a pound, so a 5-pound lease payment could be worked off in 40 days. In other words, the land would cost them a little over 15% of their yearly earnings. Compare that to today, when the average rent on a home or apartment often consumes upwards to 50% of the yearly income of those earning minimum wage. Compound that with the fact that apartments and houses are sized in square feet—not acres. Dulany's offer worked out to be a bargain for all concerned. Laborers got cheap rent on land; Dulany retained title while his land was cleared and fenced.

However appealing the lease route seemed to some, there were others who took a different approach. Benjamin Biggs and William Diggs chose to sell their land holdings outright and pocket the profit. In 1770, land in Stony Valley could be bought for about ½ pound per acre, or four days' work. Today, this same farm land is appraised at \$2,000 per acre, or roughly 50 days of work at minimum wage. Thus over the last 200 years, farm land in Stony Branch has

increased in value, after accounting for inflation, by a factor of at least 12 fold. The increase in the relative value of the land reflects not only the difference in the supply of land, but in the substantial infrastructure of roads, schools, courts, and the myriad of services in which society has invested over the intervening 200 years.

Compare the land the settlers thought was cheap to this: assume you were offered as much land in the valley as you wanted, at only \$160 per acre today. Would you think it a bargain? This is basically the same offer given the original settlers, and they answered it by snapping up as much land as they could reasonably afford.

Even though the Stony Branch Valley was considered the frontier, it was by no means uninhabited. By 1770, there were at least 10 homesteads in the lower valley. Though close together by today's standards, when one considers that travel was by foot or horse, they were far enough away to offer a true sense of isolation. The closest organized community to Stony Branch, known today as Thurmont, was a good three-hour horseback ride away. Frederick, then known as Fredricktown, was a day's ride away.

To clear the land required a Herculean effort. Carving a homestead out of the wilderness was a process repeated over and over again by each new settler to the valley. The effort required was typified by Mathias and Anna Zacharias. Their land was located about a quarter of a mile north of the mouth of the Monocacy and stretched north to the union of the two western river forks. Mathias and Anna's first task was to build a shelter for their young family of three. Until the cabin was built, the only shelter afforded the Zacharias was probably a lean-to, set up next to the wagon that had carried them to the valley. The simple log cabin would be expected to house the family for months, if not years, until such time as other more urgent chores, such as clearing fields for planting, would permit the erection of a permanent and more spacious and comfortable dwelling.

The site selected by Mathias and his wife for their cabin was surrounded by old walnut trees on what was then called Honey Ridge which overlooks where the present Zacharias house now stands. With nothing more than an ax and a horse to assist him, Mathias stacked logs from the virgin forest until the structure was 7 feet high. He then added crosspieces for rafters and erected a ridge pole some five feet above the top logs, then put

Stony Branch Landholders On The Eve Of The Revolution



Stony Branch is located south of Emmitsburg between Stony Branch and Tom's Creek. Sixes Bridge Road divides the valley. Map by Mike

the framing in place to support the roof. Time would usually not permit the splitting of shingles, so the roof was probably made of bark or thatch. The interiors of such cabins usually had one room downstairs, and half a floored loft to provide additional sleeping quarters.

The urgency for providing shelter was coupled with that of preparing fields which would feed the family and furnish a livelihood. The land was virgin and clearing it of trees and brush involved hard, backbreaking work with almost primitive axes, scythes, and saws. Mathias and Anna cultivated the land in the time-honored way of plowing with a single-row horse-drawn plow, harrowing and leveling by dragging a weighted sled. Seed was then broadcast by hand. When crops were ready for harvest, the entire Zacharias family went into the field. Some cut the grain with scythes; other bundled the stalks into sheaves. One can easily picture the three Zacharias children, Mathias Jr., Anna Elizabeth, and Maria Elizabeth helping their parents gather crops late into the evening.

Mathias Zacharias died in 1773, 19 years after setting foot in the valley for the first time. Following the tradition of the time, Mathias was buried on a hill overlooking his farm.

At the age of 16, Mathias's only son found himself responsible for the welfare of his mother and two young sisters. In many ways Mathias Zacharias was lucky. Having only one son, he never had to worry about acquiring additional land for his son, as Benjamin Whitmore did.

In 1763, Benjamin and Mary Whitmore, lured by the offer of cheap land, left Lancaster and selected a site for their new home on the east side of Toms Creek, part of Diggs' Lot. Benjamin contacted William Diggs, the owner of the land, and arranged to rent 120 acres until such time as he could pay in full the 50 pounds' asking price of the land.

Benjamin, with the help of his five sons, made rapid progress in establishing his farm and making it pay off. Having paid off his first farm in 1764, Benjamin purchased from John Darnall a 96-acre tract of land, which Darnall had named Whiskey Bottle following its purchase in 1756 from Jonathan Hays. The following year, Benjamin Whitmore became Benjamin Biggs' first customer in Biggs' effort to resell his Benjamin's Good Luck land holdings. The 200-acre purchase, on the western side of Toms Creek, opposite the original

Continued on page 14



## From page 13

Whitmore homestead, and just north of his Whiskey Bottle tract, almost doubled the Whitmores' land holdings in the valley.

Over the following years, Benjamin and Mary Whitmore continued to reinvest in additional land the profits from the efforts of their four strong sons. At the time of his death in 1769, Benjamin Whitmore's land holdings in the valley totaled 632 acres. Benjamin's four sons held their father's estate under common title for the next 30 years, formally dividing only when their advanced ages required them to begin to settle their accounts in this world. Like Mathias Zacharias, Benjamin Whitmore had accomplished what he had set out to do—provide security and a future for his wife and children. Benjamin Whitmore was laid to rest in a plot near his house on the land which he loved. The site selected was on a knoll overlooking the surrounding countryside with a view of hills and valleys beyond.

We know much about the trials and tribulations, thrills and achievements of the Zacharias and Whitmores as a result of the efforts of their descendants. Unfortunately, little is known about many of the other first purchasers of land out of Diggs' Lot and Benjamin's Good Luck. For example, we know little about Nicholas Overy who, in 1754, purchased 100 acres of land on both sides of Keysville Road, just east of the present Toms Creek Bridge. Overy resold the land to Christian and Sara Keefer in 1774, and then simply disappeared into history. In 1761 Robert Redock purchased 150 acres of land on both sides of the now Four Points Road, which he sold 10 years later to John Crabbs, who shortly thereafter built the first mill on Toms Creek, which would become known in history as Maxell's Mill.

In 1761, Margaret and John Paterson bought 214 acres on both sides on what is now Four Points Road, between its intersection of Sixes Bridge Road and Toms Creek Bridge. While the Patersons did not completely disappear into history, little is known about them. In 1770 John Marker purchased 100 acres of Benjamin's Good Luck at the intersection of Sixes Bridge and Dern Roads. While little is known of him, Marker's daughter would one day become the matriarch of the Sixes' dynasty in this area. That same year, Thomas and Mary Kunnard purchased 61 acres between the Monocacy and Sixes Bridge Road and sold it the following year at a 25% profit to Henry Forney, the patriarch of the Forney family in

this valley.

By 1771 the valley was filling up, and the price of land began to rise sharply, almost tripling with Philip Miller's purchase of 300 acres on both side of Sixes Bridge Road, from present-day Grimes Road to just north of Sixes Bridge. Not all land was sold to settlers. Much of the land was sold to smaller land speculators like Conrad Hockersmith, who in 1770 purchased 142 acres of land in the valley, which he resold 4 years later at a 400% profit to Christian and Sara Keefer. Eleven years later, it would be in Conrad Hockersmith's Bar, which might just have been financed by this windfall, that the seven residents of Popular Fields got together and renamed their community "Emmitsburg."

The seeds of prosperity that were being sown by the settlers in the valley, however, were being carried on the winds of revolution. Following the end of the French and Indian War, the British Government, in hopes of keeping peace with the Iroquois Nation, which had sided with the French, passed a proclamation which said no land could be settled west of the Appalachian Mountains. Colonists felt cheated when they heard about the proclamation. Owning land meant everything to them, for without it they had no position in society. Even voting was denied those without land.

At first, the proclamation had little real effect, as colonists concentrated their efforts on claiming open land on the eastern side of the Appalachians, such as Stony Branch Valley. However, many restless colonists soon joined the ranks of Benjamin Biggs, who, after selling what was left of his Benjamin's Good Luck to his brother William in 1771, crossed the Appalachians and settled in the fertile Ohio Valley. Faced with open violation of his proclamation, King George issued the Quartering Act, which required colonists to provide housing and supplies for British soldiers.

Benjamin Biggs and his family went on to play a major part in the post-colonial development of America. Benjamin Biggs became one of the first post-revolutionary generals in the new American army, and, with his brothers, fought in the many Indian wars that followed our independence. Zachariah Biggs, another son of Stony Branch's Benjamin Biggs, was responsible for dividing up Ohio for settlement. Zachariah, possibly influenced by the haphazard and inefficient way his father had divided up Stony Branch, set up a plan by which land was sold in one-square-mile plots. Buyers could then resell it as

they wished. The results of Zachariah Biggs' plan, which was subsequently carried out in almost every new state to enter the Union, resulted in the now familiar checker-board layout of farms and counties in the Midwest—a pattern easily recognized by anyone flying over the Midwest or simply looking at a road atlas.

The French and Indian War had also caused Britain to go deeply into debt. Keeping an army on the frontier meant additional cost to the British Empire. To pay for these additional costs, the British government passed the Stamp Act. This act required that each sheet of every legal document carry a stamp showing that a tax had been paid. It was the first attempt by the British government to directly tax the American colonies.

The colonists reacted with rage. For them the issue was clear. The colonies had no representation in the English Parliament, and therefore, under English law, they could not be taxed. "No taxation without representation" became the rallying cry, which would echo across the land, from meetings in John Crabbs' Mill on Toms Creek, to Bunker Hill. Across the land, the spirit of revolution was growing, and it would soon manifest itself in open revolt. In answer to its call, many

of those who had struggled to establish homesteads in Stony Branch, like Mathias Zacharias, would now risk all to establish a future for their progeny, free of tyranny and fear.

Next Month: Revolution!

Color copies of this month's map can be seen at the Town Office, the public library, Zurgable Brothers and ABC .....

Writer's note:

Anyone interested in learning more about the German and Dutch settlers of the Emmitsburg area should read: All Is Safe Now, the Whitmore family history, which is available at the Emmitsburg Public Library.

My ability to make these articles as interesting as I can is dependent on retrieving information and history on as many families as I can who have lived in the Stony Branch Valley. Currently I am in need of additional information on the families and descendants of John Forney, Phillips Miller, Isaac Hornacre, Joseph Wilson, Casper Welty, Henry Black, John and James Shorb, John Crabbs, Lucas Flack, and John Picking. If you are a descendant of one, or simply have some knowledge about one, no matter how insignificant you might think it is,

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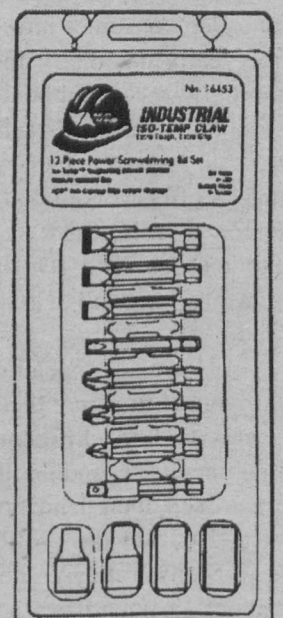
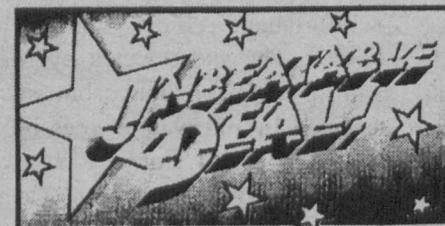


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## Rocky Ridge news

By Emma Keeney

**Happy birthday wishes for March** to Vernon and Bea Keilholtz, Eugene Stambaugh, Wayne Stambaugh, Kathy Wolfe, Annabelle Mackley, Jim Flohr, Joseph Brown, Faye Wolfe, Linda Northrup, Jeff Sharrer, Heather Stambaugh, Ricky Eugene Beall, Kristie Frushour, Bob Ogle, Richard Flohr, Rebecca Shields, and Crystal Shriner.

**Congratulations** to Robert and Helen Ogle on their sixty-first wedding anniversary, March 26.

**Happy anniversary wishes** to Pastor Jim and Burneda Russell, Michael and Emma Lou Harris, and Carrolton and Annabelle Houck.

### Church of the Brethren News

Happy anniversary wishes to Mr. and Mrs. Ray Lescalleet on their 52nd wedding anniversary. Happy birthday wishes to Lisa Eyler Reed and Naomi Baker.

Kevin Sharrer, son of Mr. and Mrs. Jeff Sharrer, won first place in the local Vo-Tech contest for carpen-

try. At the regional competition in Garrett County, he took second place.

### SUB SALE at the Mount Tabor United Church of Christ, Rocky Ridge.

Available are 12-inch ham and cheese subs for \$6.00 and 6-inch subs for \$3.00. Orders due March 23; pick-up Thursday, March 26 at 7:30 p.m. To order, call Rosie Stambaugh at (301) 271-2649 any-time or Viv Martin at (301) 271-7858 after 5:00 p.m.

**Rocky Ridge Ladies Auxiliary will be sponsoring a BASKET BINGO on May 2, 1998.** The tickets are now available for \$10 a person which includes 3 cards for 20 games, 2 special games and door prizes, there will be raffles and extra cards available at the door. For tickets you may call Linda Northrup (301) 447-6714; Tammy Smith (301) 271-3739; Teressa Kaas (301) 271-3781. Games will begin at 6:30 p.m. The doors and kitchen will open at 4:30 p.m.

## Mount Tabor Quilters

By Inspector 13

Frederick County is celebrating its 250th Anniversary this year, and numerous events have been scheduled to present life as it was in the 1700-1800's.

Mt. Tabor Quilters are mere infants, being only ten years old. However, we make quilts the same way our ancestors did. We make a "sandwich" with a hand-pieced (or appliquéd) top, batting, and backing. We fasten these layers together by tying knots or hand-stitching, using decorative designs over the entire quilt.

The materials we use are different, but the patterns are often the same as those used a hundred years ago. Our quilts, like the early ones, are made to be used as bedcovers or kept as heirlooms. However, many "quilts" of the 90's are only suitable

for display and are not really quilts that fit a bed.

For example, a recent Home and Garden Channel TV show was a lesson on how to *quilt* a landscape. Different colors of printed fabric were stitched, gathered, tucked, and pleated onto a round foundation cloth, then fluffed to give it depth and mounted in a frame. It was a landscape but—no quilting!

Another show featured "A Cabin in the Woods"—a quilt to hang on the wall. Various motifs were cut from printed fabrics and stuck to two-sided foundation (sticky on front and back). These were cut out again, blanket stitched (buttonhole stitch) around and stuck to the foundation. When finished it made an attractive wall hanging. Definitely not a bedcover and no obvious quilting.

### Area student named to Dean's List

Elizabeth Ann Sharrer of Emmitsburg, MD, has been named to the fall 1997 Dean's List at Costal Carolina University. She is the daughter of Marshall and Rose Mary Sharrer. To qualify for the Dean's List, students must be enrolled full-time; freshmen must earn a 3.25 grade point average and upperclassmen a 3.5 grade point average.



Mr. and Mrs. Calvin Keeney

### Wiles - Keeney

Victory Tabernacle in Thurmont was the setting for the August 16 marriage of Melissa Jo Wiles and Calvin Leo Keeney. The double-ring ceremony was performed by Pastors David and Hope Reynolds.

Given in marriage by her father, the bride is the daughter of Vernon and Barbara Wiles of Frederick. The groom is the son of Carl and Verna Keeney of Rocky Ridge.

The matron of honor was the sister of the bride, Kim Mills of Gettysburg. The maid of honor was the sister of the groom, Vicky Powell of Thurmont. Bridesmaids were Michelle Capino of Smithsburg, Brenda Guilday of Walkersville and Tammy Palmer of Fairfield. The flower girl was the bride's niece, Kirsten Mills of Gettysburg.

Best men were Ray Mills of Gettysburg and Mike Capino of Smithsburg. Ushers were the bride's brother James Wiles of Ladiesburg and Louie Powell of Thurmont. The ring bearer was Daniel Palmer of Fairfield and the guest book was done by the bride's brother, Chuck Stottlemeyer of Frederick.

A reception was held at Thurmont Activities Building. Soundsations provided the music. Pictures were taken by Photos by P & J.

The new Mrs. Keeney is a 1997 graduate of Walkersville High School.

Mr. Keeney is a 1993 graduate of Catocin High School, Thurmont. He is employed by Ridge Electrical System of Frederick.

The honeymoon was spent in Niagara Falls, Canada.

The couple resides in Rocky Ridge.

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## St. Anthony/OLMC news...

By Ann Marshall

### Ecumenical I Lenten Services

planned by the Emmitsburg Council of Churches and Thurmont Ministerium began on Ash Wednesday and continue at 7:30 p.m. on the following evenings: March 1, Incarnation United Church of Christ, Rev. Larry Eby; March 2, OLMC, Rev. David Jernigan; March 8, Presbyterian Church, Rev. Leo Tittler; March 9, Graceham Moravian Church, Sr. Carol Czyzewski; March 15, St.

Joseph Catholic Church, Rev. Susan Yatta; March 16, Apples United Church of Christ, Rev. Phil Huber; March 22, Elias Lutheran Church, Rev. Sharon Forbes; March 23, Catoctin United Methodist Church, Rev. Richard Zamostny; March 29, Toms Creek, United Methodist Church, Rev. Michael Kennedy; March 30, Thurmont United Methodist Church, TBA.

### The Catholic Faith Communities

in northern Frederick County announce a Lenten Penance service to be held at St. Joseph Catholic Church, Emmitsburg, on Wednesday, April 1, at 7:30 p.m. The Sacrament of Reconciliation with private confession will be celebrated in the context of Scripture, reflection, and music. Five priests will be present for confessions. There will also be a healing prayer and anointing for individuals who request it. Adults and youth are invited to partici-

pate in this prayer for God's mercy.

**Other Lenten Services at St. Anthony/OLMC** include a weekly Wednesday evening Mass at 7:30 p.m., and Stations and Benediction each Friday at 7:00 p.m. (see bulletin for locations). The **Living Stations and Resurrection Play** will take place on Friday, March 20, at 7 p.m., at OLMC Parish Center, and the **Children's Penance Service** for grades 2 will be held Sunday, March 29, at the Thurmont Middle School, 9:15-10:30 a.m.

### Confirmation Preparation

**Overview** for all students in grades 8-12 who have not yet been confirmed and are not currently enrolled in a preparation class will be held at Thurmont Middle School on Sunday, March 8, at 9:15 a.m. Parents are encouraged to attend this overview session with their children.

**The Human Services Committee** of the combined parishes requests donations for Easter baskets which will be distributed to small children through the Frederick Rescue Mission. Large baskets are in the backs of the churches for donations of children's toiletries, hair accessories, coloring books and crayons, stickers, playing cards, small stuffed animals, etc. Confirmation students will deliver the gifts to the shelter on March 28.

**Children Who Will Make Their First Communion** in May are reminded that preparation classes meet at St. Anthony's Schoolhouse at 6:45 on Monday evenings, March 9 (parent session) and 23, and on April 6 and 21. Call the Religious Education Office 301-271-4099 for more information.

**Congratulations to Jeannette and Roger Wiley** who celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary on Feb. 21.

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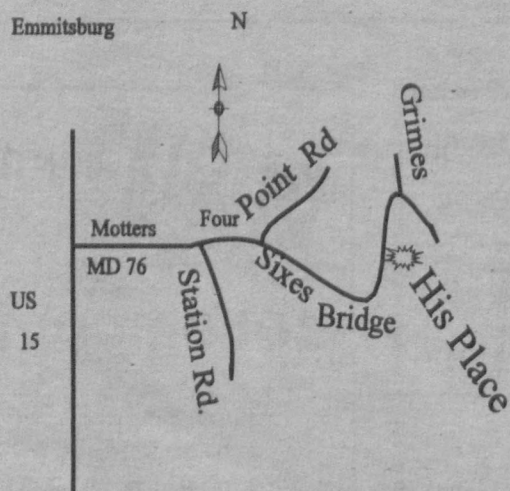
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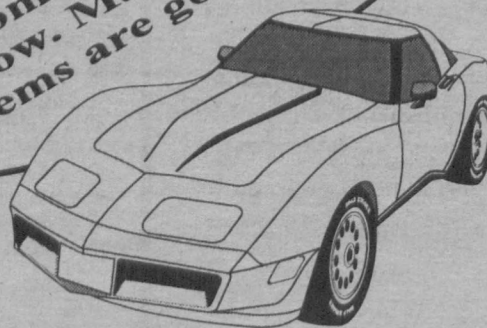
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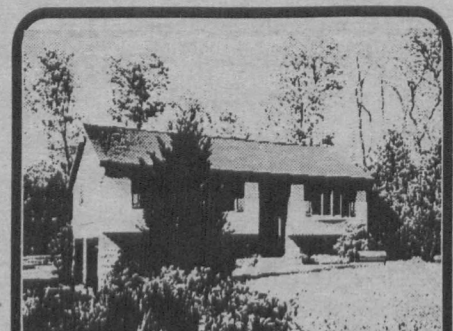
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## Obituaries

### Mr. Clifford Huse

Mr. Clifford Leroy Huse, 61, of 20 DePaul St. Emmitsburg, died Saturday, Jan. 31, at Washington Adventist Hospital, Takoma Park.

He was the husband of the late Rosalie Tobery Huse.

Born Feb. 16, 1936, in Mountindale, he was the son of the late Earl Leroy and Elsie Rebecca Wiles Huse.

Mr. Huse attended Maranatha Church of God. He was retired from Ausherman Construction Company.

Surviving are five children, Clifford Leroy VanWinkle, Terry Ann Strawsburg, Reed Allen Huse Sr., Charles William Huse Sr., and John Adam Huse Sr.; eight grandchildren, Charles William Huse Jr., Michael Alexandria Huse, Jasmine Nicole Huse, Reed Allen Huse Jr., John Adam Huse Jr., Anthony Leroy Huse, Genny Rebecca Strawsburg, and Nathan M. Medowe; six step-grandchildren, Nathaniel L. Johnson, Susan L. Berry, Mark A. Harrison, Amber and Brianna Hardy, and Rose Marie Huse, Doris May Huse, Carl John Huse, Earl Sylvester Huse, and Shirley Huse; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Mr. Huse was preceded in death by a stepdaughter, Vicky Berry Johnson.

Funeral services were held at the Stauffer Funeral Home with Pastor Lovell Wilson, associate pastor of Maranatha Church of God, Frederick, officiating. Interment was in Faith United Church of Christ Cemetery, Charlesville.

### Mrs. Mildred Hardman

Mrs. Mildred Irene Harman Hardman, 82, of Waynesboro Pike, Emmitsburg, died Monday, Feb. 2, at Frederick Memorial Hospital.

She was the wife of Francis S. Hardman, who died in August 1986.

Born May 5, 1915, in Hunterstown, Pa., she was a daughter of the late Earl and Jane E. Galloway Harman.

She was a member of Trinity United Methodist Church, Emmitsburg.

She retired from St. Joseph's Provincial House after many years of service.

Surviving are a daughter, Frances A. Eyler, of Thurmont; a granddaughter, Marisa L. Eyler of Taneytown; four brothers and sisters, Charles Harman, Frances Witter and Betty Miller, all of Hunterstown, Pa., and Earl Harman Jr. of Philadelphia, Pa.; and three step-brothers and stepsisters, Nancy McCleaf, Jean Sprinkle, and Howard Harman, all of Gettysburg, Pa.

Funeral services were held at Skiles Funeral Home with the Rev. Larry Eby officiating. Interment was in Emmitsburg Memorial Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made to Trinity United Methodist Church, P.O. Box 481, Emmitsburg, MD 21727-0481.

### Mr. Thomas Topper

Mr. Thomas Lawrence Topper, 43, of East Main Street, Emmitsburg, died Tuesday, Feb. 3, at John's Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore.

He was the husband of Sharon Danner Topper.

Born Feb. 20, 1952, in Gettysburg, Pa., he was the son of William L. and Carmen Elizabeth Austin Topper of Emmitsburg.

Mr. Topper was a member of St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church, Emmitsburg, where he had served on the parish council. He was one of the 13 original members of the Frederick County ALS, a life member of Emmitsburg Ambulance Co., and had served as president and then chief for the past 10 years.

He was a member of Vigilant Hose Co. and had been assistant chief. He was serving as a driver at the time of his death.

Mr. Topper was a member of the Knights of Columbus Bruté Council 1860 of Emmitsburg and had served as grand knight.

At the time of his death he was commander of the Sons of the American Legion Post 121, Emmitsburg, was on the planning and zoning board for the town of Emmitsburg, was a American Red Cross CPR instructor, was on the national registry EMT-paramedic, and coached football and basketball for CYA of Thurmont.

Mr. Topper was a graduate of St. Joseph's High School, Emmitsburg, and a 1974 graduate of Mount St. Mary's College.

He was an independent insurance agent, operating Topper Insurance of Emmitsburg.

Surviving in addition to his wife and parents are two daughters, Alison A. Topper and Lindsay A. Topper, both of Emmitsburg; a sister Cheryl Paugh and husband Donnie of Falling Waters, W.Va.; two brothers, Nevin Topper and wife Susan of Thurmont, and Kevin Topper and wife Penny of Fort Worth, Texas; his father and mother-in-law, George and Nancy Danner of Emmitsburg; a brother-in-law, Mike Danner; and a number of aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, and nephews.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held at St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church, Emmitsburg, with the Rev. Frank Kilcline as principal celebrant. Interment was in New St. Joseph's Cemetery, Emmitsburg.

Memorial donations may be made to Vigilant Hose Co., P.O. Box 171, Emmitsburg, Md. 21727, or to Catocin Youth Association, 114 Locust Drive, Thurmont, Md. 21788.

### Mr. C. Wilson Franklin

Mr. C. Wilson Franklin, 87, of 15855 St. Anthony Road, Thurmont, died Wednesday, Feb. 4, at Gettysburg Hospital.

He was the husband of Lyla Jenkins Franklin, whom he married July 31, 1960.

Born Jan. 13, 1911, in Catonsville, he was a son of the late John N. and Margaret Fox Franklin.

He was a member of Emmitsburg United Presbyterian Church, Emmitsburg, where he served as elder, trustee, and superintendent of the Sunday School for many years.

He was formerly employed by Glen L. Martin Co., Baltimore, and later by Stuller Construction Co., Taneytown. He retired in 1978 from St. Joseph's Provincial House in Emmitsburg.

Surviving in addition to his wife are a daughter, Linda Franklin Schwartz and husband Owen of Australia; a son, C. Wilson Franklin Jr. and wife Jacquelyn of Thurmont; three grandchildren, Erika, Jonathan and Marlaina Franklin, all of Thurmont; three sisters, Elizabeth Franklin Larsen of Littleton,

Colo., Margaret Franklin, and Leeanna Franklin both of Thurmont; a sister-in-law Lillian Baxter Franklin of Baltimore; and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his first wife, Nellie DeVito Franklin; two brothers, John C. Franklin and George E. Franklin; and a sister, Mary E. Franklin.

Funeral services were held Monday, Feb. 9, at Emmitsburg United Presbyterian Church, 415 W. Main St., Emmitsburg. The Rev. R. Benjamin Jones officiated. Interment was in Blue Ridge Cemetery, Thurmont.

### Sister Eleanor McNabb

Sister Eleanor McNabb, D.C., 92, of St. Joseph's Provincial House, Emmitsburg Province of the Daughters of Charity, died Friday, Feb. 20 at Villa St. Michael, Emmitsburg.

Born Nov. 18, 1905 in Somerville, Mass., she was the daughter of the late Patrick Joseph and Eleanor McCall McNabb.

Sister Eleanor joined the Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul in 1938. She served in the Education ministry in Greensboro, N.C., before entering the field of nursing. She completed her graduate studies a Catholic University in Washington, D.C., and then served for six years as director of the university Undergraduate School of Nursing. She served as administrator of Providence Hospital in Washington from 1950 to 1961. In 1962 Sister Eleanor was appointed provincial superior of the Daughters of Charity of the

Emmitsburg Province, serving until 1974.

Following her years in Emmitsburg, she was assigned to an office near the Vatican where she had a major role in preparations for the canonization of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, first American-born saint and foundress of the Sisters of Charity in the United States. Sister served from 1977 to 1993 in the Generalate for the Vincentians and Daughters of Charity in Rome.

In 1993, she returned to Emmitsburg to work on a publication of the Very Rev. Richard McCullen, C.M., titled "Deep Down Things."

Surviving are a brother, Francis of Monroe, Mich.; and several nieces and nephews.

A Mass of the Resurrection was held in the Basilica of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton in the Provincial House at Emmitsburg.

Memorial contributions to the Sisters of Charity Retirement Fund, St. Joseph's Provincial House, 333 South Seton Ave., Emmitsburg, Md. 21727

Arrangements are by Skiles Funeral Home, Emmitsburg, MD.

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## Mother Seton School News

By Val Mentzer

### Twelve Angry Men

Mrs. Ware's 8th grade literature class presented the play *Twelve Angry Men* to parents and fellow students. This play presents a jury deciding the fate of a young man accused of murder. Here are some student commentaries on this study of the American justice system, and the study of human nature when making decisions based on prejudice or bias:

**Michael Moore:** *Twelve Angry Men* was really an eye opener to me. It gave examples of many different types of prejudice and how people are being persecuted. It showed different ways to handle different peo-

ple with different opinions. *Twelve Angry Men* was a lesson on paper."

Alex Adelsberger: "The play of *Twelve Angry Men* showed me that there are futile arguments and prejudices in our world. An argument whether a window should be opened or not nearly broke loose because of a difference of an opinion is just one example. The play also stated to me that just one voice in a group of people can really make a difference whether big or small. One voice spoke out and demanded in his soft-spoken manner that the man on trial deserved to have the respect of the jurors by taking time to contemplate what had been done. This man was able to convince all eleven jurors, those of whom consisted of many different people with very different



Mrs. Ware's 8th Grade literature class played the jury deciding the fate of an accused murderer in the play *Twelve Angry Men*.

Photo courtesy Val Mentzer

backgrounds, nationalities, and careers and specially hard to convince, a biased man and a sadist, that maybe the kid was innocent. This man was very courageous in

doing so and was adamant in his opinion. *Twelve Angry Men* was a play that dealt with many different issues of the time and was a lot of fun to perform and learn about."

### Congratulations, Spelling Bee Winners!

Well, here they are, the top spellers at Mother Seton School!

Grade 4: Adam Delauter, Tyler Mentzer. Alternate: Nina Krauss  
Grade 5: Katlyn Howes, Joseph Hansbrough. Alternate: Elise Hawkins  
Grade 6: Zane Craig. Alternate: Sarah Heiderman  
Grade 7: Brenda Scheider. Alternate: Ashley Lance  
Grade 8: Mary Ten Eyck, Amy Greene. Alternate: Rene Parks  
Alternate: Alex Adelsberger  
Alternate: Mary Knox

Congratulations to Mary Ten Eyck for being the Mother Seton School Spelling Bee Champion. Mary goes on to the finals in Washington, D.C.

### Congratulations, Mathematicians!

Here are the winners of the 13th American Junior High School mathematics Examination

Grade 7: Ben Hanning and Tracey Evans

Grade 8: Tony Ventura and Shannon Connell

### Dolby the Dragon

Mrs. Miller's 2nd Graders have acquired a pen pal - Dolby the Dragon. Dolby has been sharing with the students his adventures on the *USS George Washington*. Dolby has visited the Rock of Gibraltar, Israel, the Suez Canal, United Arab Emirates, and the Persian Gulf. With every letter the students receive from Dolby, they chart his location on a world map and study the country where Dolby is located. Recently, Dolby sent the class a carved wooden camel with leather ears. The students have cherished this very special gift. Dolby expects to visit Japan, France, and Italy. The students cannot wait for their next letter from Dolby. After all of Dolby's travels, he will make a special visit to the 2nd graders in April.

## Teenage Girls Self-Defense Class at National Emergency Training Center

Girls age 12 - 18 are invited to join others in a 7 hour learning experience. March 28, 1998

If you are interested in a class that may one day save your life, please fill out this registration form and mail it to Women's Self-Defense, P.O. Box 091, Rocky Ridge, MD 21778-0091. Please include a \$6 registration fee and a self-addressed stamped envelope. Be at "NETC" from 8am - 4pm. Bring only water. Registration fee includes a lunch buffet. No jewelry. Loose clothes & sneakers.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ (Age) \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_  
Emerg. contact person \_\_\_\_\_  
Emerg. Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

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## Cougar News

By Marlene Tarr, Principal  
Parent Conferences are scheduled for the evenings of March 4 and 5 from 3:15 pm to 7:15 pm. Classes on both days will begin at 12:05 pm. Dismissal will be at the regular time. No lunch will be served on either day. Parents wishing to schedule a conference with a teacher are asked to call the guidance department at 301-271-3050.

Other important events occurring in March are the following: Senior cap and gown pictures rescheduled for March 12 between 9:00 pm and 2:00 pm; the Winter Sports Awards ceremony to be held on March 18 at 7:00 pm in the auditorium; the spring sports season begins on February 28; contests begin during the week of March 23.

For current information on events and activities occurring at Catocin High School tune to the Catocin High School cable TV station.

Recently there has been a lot of publicity regarding schools in the northern part of the county. Last month my article urged citizens to write letters of support for the renovation and additions for Catocin High School. Reading Letters to the Editor in *The Frederick News Post*, one would get the impression that the classroom and gym additions were guaranteed. *Nothing could be further*

*from the truth!* Despite what you may have heard, funding for these two projects has not yet been approved. I fear that these projects will be lost among the controversy unless citizens keep the issue alive.

There is still time. Last year, community efforts obtained design funding. If the County Commissioners don't hear our voices united in support of this renovation the projects will be delayed again. Your children deserve the benefits of current technology (like up-to-date computers and distance learning) as well as adequate facilities. How can we possibly prepare students for today's job market without equitable resources? Don't allow the elementary students, currently affected by overcrowding, to meet the same obstacles once they reach high school.

Please write Letters to the Editor, *The Frederick News Post*, 200 E. Patrick St., P.O. Box 578, Frederick, Md. 21705 and the Board of County Commissioners at Winchester Hall, 12 E. Church St, Frederick, Md. 21701. It will be wonderful to have a new gym, but current technology will only come with the classroom addition. There is no reason to make this a two-phase project. Make it clear that we want both the classroom and the gym additions. Many thanks for your assistance.

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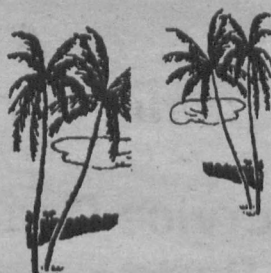
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## Classifieds

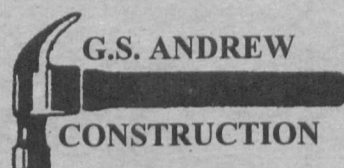
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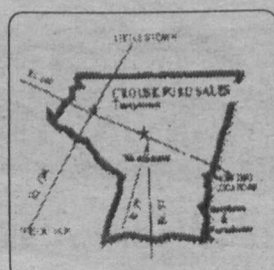
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