



The Emmitsburg Dispatch

Vol II, No.2 [No.3?]

news and opinion in the service of truth

March 2003



—RAYMOND BUCHHEISTER/THE EMMITSBURG DISPATCH

Jim and Dottie Phelan shine forth from the locker-room at Mount St. Mary's between an honor guard of basketball players he had coached in his 49-year. See p. 11 for a story about this man who made history in the college game.

And then there was the loveliness of snow

Removing the snow that began on Feb. 15 may cost \$25,000, says Town Manager Dave Haller. Emmitsburg had allocated only \$5,000. The Town has submitted a request for emergency funds of \$22,450.

Haller said Emmitsburg received emergency money in the past but this time the Town probably won't see the entire amount requested. It will make up the difference with money from the Town's fund balance reserve.

The emergency fund request was passed up the levels of government. It went first to the Frederick County Emergency Management Agency.

Next, this agency combines estimates from all county municipalities into one sum and submits its own request for this sum to the Maryland Emergency Management Agency (MEMA).

Then MEMA will combine estimates from all counties into one sum. Finally, the State will then make a single request for Federal emergency funds.

See the centerfold for pictures of the historic snowfall in Emmitsburg.

Short Story Contest

open to all readers of
The Emmitsburg Dispatch
See page 15

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Avoiding vote on founding date, commissioners change date on seal, flag

By Raymond Buchheister,
Publisher
and Bill Steo, Editor

Emmitsburg's Board of Commissioners avoided making any ruling at the Mar. 3 Town meeting about the Town's founding date. But they voted to replace the Town's traditional "Founded 1757" with "Incorporated 1825" on the official seal, flag, and anything else that represents the Town government.

After Commissioner Ted

Brennan said with great concern that the much argued issue has "polarized our Town," Town officials voted 3-0-1 to refrain from changing the date. Commissioner Joyce Rosensteel abstained.

Brennan said the question before the Board should not be when the Town was founded but what date should be used to represent the Town government. It "wasn't established until 1825," the year when it was legally incorporated in Maryland. Members of the Board agreed that

the Town government had no legal authority over anything before the Town's incorporation.

Hillman, who tried to convince Town officials at the Feb 3 Town meeting that the founding date is not 1757, was thrilled that "they recognize that establishing things like founding dates should be left to historians and historical societies."

Commissioner Pat Boyle had a different view. Speaking without interference as Board president, he

—Continued on page 10

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Emmitsburg Dispatch encourages its readers to express their thoughts and opinions about issues that appear in this publication or affect the community. Letters must be exclusive to the Dispatch and should be no longer than 300 words in length. They must be signed and include the writer's address and phone number to be used for verification. The Dispatch reserves the right to edit for content and space. Deadline for letters is the 15th of each month.

For those who knew Donna Fehr

I recently learned of the death of a former neighbor and friend, and past Emmitsburg business person Donna "Sue" Fehr. Sue and her husband H.W. "Bud" Fehr owned and operated a Western Auto store on East Main Street in the 1970s and early 1980s. They resided in the Fairfield area. Bud died during that time and Sue continued to run the business on her own for a number of years. Before moving away Sue worked at Quality Glass in Taneytown

for a short time.

Donna "Sue" Fehr was born May 16, 1928 in Chanute, Kansas and died August 25, 2002 in Des Moines, IA. She is survived by 2 daughters Nancy and Paula. Sue and Bud became acquainted with many people in the Emmitsburg and Fairfield area during their time here. I thought your readers might like to know.

— Rose Keepers
Fairfield, PA

Take Note

Mail to the troops

TMail from home boosts morale in our troops. Daily their number grows in the Mid East, in Kuwait and other countries around Iraq. Members of the armed forces must provide their unusual mailing addresses to folks at home. The U.S. Postal Service will forward mail addressed to persons, but not mail sent to the military in general, according to Emmitsburg Postmaster Bill Thomas.

When we send a letter or package

to someone in a war zone, it moves from the Emmitsburg P.O. to a distribution center in Frederick, then either to New York or to California or also on to Hawaii, depending on the zip code. From that point the U.S. armed forces distribute the mail by routes we may never know.

Estimated time of delivery from Emmitsburg to Kuwait? Thomas does not know but, from what he's heard, it may take only a few days.

Road ice near Town Square

Many times this winter I slowly approached the square from N. Seton Ave. I am very concerned about the ice that forms on the road beside Crouse's Store. Today, March 7th, was the first time, even though I am very cautious there, that I continued to slide past the stop position.

Please, Mr. Mayor and Commissioners, do something before something very serious happens. There could be an accident of a very serious nature. We have a year to focus on the problem.

— Lois Sears
Emmitsburg

U.S. was named in 1776

Contrary to what you wrote in the March issue, p. 11, The Declaration of Independence specifically refers to our newly independent nation as the United States. The date on the document declaring independence and applying a name to the new nation was July 4, 1776. Any controversy over the date of actual national birth stems from the date of the document's first reading (July 2) and when it received its final signatures (circa August 2, 1776). However, the

date on the document makes one point very clear, our nation was founded on July 4. It should be noted that the War for Independence was begun on April 18, 1775. While the founding date of Emmitsburg continues to be a matter of great debate, it is clear that the date of our nation's founding was established by fact and backed by solid documentation.

— Ted Brennan
Emmitsburg

Another vote for 1785

The worn signs showing 1757 as the founding date of Emmitsburg should be replaced. Why not show the right date, 1785? Does it matter? Only if you believe in telling the truth. Regardless of how the term "founded" is defined, a town has not been founded where there are no lots, no houses, and no people. That was the situation in 1757 when Samuel Emmit bought 2250 acres in the northern part of Frederick County, including a part of the Town site, from the Carroll Estate. There were nearby farms, including the Robert Wilson farm of 1733, but a neighborhood of farms does not constitute a town.

The Town of Emmitsburg was founded when William Emmit, son of Samuel Emmit, bought a large part of the Town site from his father in 1785, plotted the Town and began to sell lots with the deed provision that houses of two stories at least 16'x16' be built

within two years. Had there been houses here, at that time, this deed provision would not have been necessary.

Evidently some of my friends have become very cozy with the date 1757 and do not wish to give it up. Not I. Years ago I searched the title to original Lot 23, where I live, and learned that William Emmit, not Samuel Emmit, sold the lot to James Agnew, an ancestor, in 1785 or 1786.

Messrs. Michael Hillman and John Miller of the Emmitsburg Historical Society have researched this subject thoroughly and should be commended, even though some persons, whether amateur or professional historians, find the results unwelcome. Does this remind you of Dumas Malone and the Sally Hemings story? So much for objectivity!

— Harold C. Craig, Jr.
Emmitsburg


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Where are the recycling dumpsters for Emmitsburg citizens with a sense of civic responsibility who don't get curbside service? The dumpsters were temporarily located here — in Town — behind the Post Office. Where are they now?



Here, in Thurmont — 8 miles from Emmitsburg — thanks to Town officials who caved in to several complaints from a handful of residents. The recycling dumpsters can be reached only through a park entrance. Now Emmitsburg citizens have to make a 16-mile round trip.

Town caves in to a few gripers, forces 16-mile trip for recyclers

By Bill Steo
Editor

Some people believe it is worth the extra effort to save plastic, glass, paper, and metal to have it used again. Otherwise it fills up trash dumps. Recycling saves money and helps the environment. Frederick County provides blue plastic bins for the recyclables and curbside pickup service. Emmitsburg, says Phil Harris, the County's recycling coordinator, has had a better than average pickup rate.

Curbside service has been available

only for single family homes built more than 2 years previously in areas with a certain density of housing. But the Solid Waste Enterprise Fund dried up 2 years ago and expansion of the curbside program remains on hold.

Everyone without curbside service has to bring their recyclables to dumpsters, which used to be located behind the Community Center. When it began to be renovated, the dumpsters had to be moved. Mayor Hoover said the Town checked out several locations for them. There was a costly problem in each case. Finally, it found a home for them

behind the Post Office, at Chesapeake and Potomac streets.

Fewer than a dozen families live along Chesapeake, but the Town received about 15 complaints from residents. They said the dumpsters were an eyesore, caused a traffic backup, would pose a threat to children when the ball park opened, and eliminated parking space (for about 6 cars). Pickups are noisy, too. So the Town spent \$1,200 for gravel and a wire mesh fence to isolate the dumpsters from the surrounding area (see photo).

This was to be only a temporary relocation. The dumpsters would be moved back behind the new Community Center/Town office building when renovation is completed, in 2 years or less.

But the same few kept complaining, and Emmitsburg Town officials finally capitulated. Although some officials thought the dumpsters could never be brought back to Town, they had them moved to Eyler Road in Thurmont, 8 miles from Emmitsburg. Since then recyclable materials have been found in and around the Town-owned trash dumpster located in the ball field behind the Community Center.

Harris says the County has not considered whether the recycling dumpsters can be brought back to Emmitsburg. The budget will decide, he said.

Meanwhile, generous citizens who save recyclables and have no curbside service, must make a 16-mile round trip to drop off the materials.

Ancient Greek playwright had idea to stop war

Over 581 theatre companies in 38 countries planned to produce a reading of *Lysistrata* to demonstrate for peace on March 3. *Lysistrata* is a comedy by Greek dramatist Aristophanes who lived about 447-385 B.C.E.* It tells the story of a group of women from opposing states who unite to end the

Peloponnesian War. After matronly stormtroopers take over the building where public funds are kept, the women rise to end the war by withholding favors from their mates — until, desperate for intimacy, the men finally agree to lay down their swords and seek peace through diplomacy.

The Blue Ridge Theatre Guild reported in a press release that it "had several local connections to the *Lysistrata* Project," a spokesperson said. The Guild said, "Though the Project is not necessarily suggesting these tactics be used to end this war (but, wouldn't it be fun if the First Lady ...), *Lysistrata* provides a humorous entree into a healthy community dialogue: What can we do on a local level to stop 'diplomacy by violence' in our world?"

*B.C.E., used in the press release, stands for "Before the Common Era" and is used by Jews and others who wish to show respect for their beliefs.

Election Judges Needed

The Town of Emmitsburg is accepting applications of interest to serve as election judges for the April 29, 2003 election.

Please respond in writing to:
Town of Emmitsburg
PO Box 990
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A description of duties for judges of elections can be obtained at the town office at 22 East Main Street.

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EDITORIAL

Is Bush's war a just one? Here is a way to judge

No human action requires more knowledge, of facts and principles, than starting a war.

That does not stop us from having an opinion about what President Bush is about to do in a few days. How many of us say "I don't know what our country should do," rather than "Wage war" or "Wage peace."

Current polls show that most Americans believe that, if the United Nations does not agree with Bush, he should not wage war against Iraq. It obscures the truth to say, "against Saddam Hussein." The war is against a country, people, not factories or buildings, and not against one man.

But what makes Americans and tens of millions of people around the world think they know enough to cry "No war"? What do they know that the President and his enormous staff of advisors don't know?

It may be they have natural human knowledge of truths spelled out by moralists centuries ago and held by most today. Without knowing its name, people may be relying on principles of

the "just war" theory — that some wars can be justified — and believe that Bush's war is not one of them.

The Emmitsburg Dispatch will not express its opinion at this time, but offers a sketch of the just war theory and urges readers to judge for themselves whether Bush's war is just.

The theory is that a nation can justly carry on a war, if certain conditions are all satisfied. All the conditions apply to the person or group — the agent — ultimately responsible for initiating and carrying out the war. At this moment President George Bush is such an agent. The agent, the one who starts or carries on a war, must:

(1) Have a just cause; for example, a country responds with war against an invader, or because it has knowledge that the leaders of some country are slaughtering their people. Knowledge of such an invasion or slaughter could be a just cause.

(2) Have legitimate authority to engage in war. For example, it is unjust for a group of dissidents in a country to start a war on behalf of the whole coun-

try. The agent must truly represent the whole country.

(3) Have the right intention, for example, for self-defense or to save people from slaughter. Note: It is recognizably unjust to wage war only to change the government of another country, although collaterally that could be a good result. It is not unjust to support those who want to overthrow an evil government.

(4) Estimate that the war will not produce more or greater evil than the good sought. Wars by other nations against each other, or the worldwide proliferation of terrorism, the economic distress of many nations around the world, could be greater evils than a

war, if they result from it.

(5) Wage war only as the last resort.

(6) Be convinced there is a reasonable chance of winning.

(7) Seek peace as the eventual outcome of the war.

To think seriously about this most serious of all actions, readers may ask whether every one of the conditions of a just war are fulfilled for the war against Iraq. Thinking may bring some measure of understand. It won't stop or win the war. It can make us feel better about something about which we have no say and can do nothing.

Your opinions, if you send them to us, will be published in the next and possibly other issues.

Something not very important: teetering tables at restaurants

Six years ago, *that's 6 years*, your editor asked the manager of Emmitsburg's McDonald's to please stop the tables from rocking. "Certainly," he said. That was the first time. Did I mention I asked *6 years* ago?

I asked again about a year later. "Of course," he said the second time. Two years later, *2 years*, the tables were still rocking at McDonald's, and not musically.

But a year after that, hope appeared. As my wife and I left McDonald's, a bit seasick, we spied a district manager painting the railing outside, as upper managers do to show solidarity with the real workers.

"Aha," I told myself, smugly. "I'll get the tables fixed." With smiles and apologies, the district chap said, "Of course," he'd have the tables leveled. And, of course, now, *3 years* later (psst, *that's 3 years*), early in March 2003, they still act intoxicated.

Every time we put our plastic forks into something, the drink wobbles as if there were an earthquake. By now someone must have been scalded with hot coffee or sluiced with a soft drink by one of Micky D's unstable tables. Not too long ago, someone collected a bundle because of its hot coffee.

Like its tables the mighty McDonald's company has been teetering a bit lately, according to business reports, and it may seem insensitive to make this minor complaint. *But* the

table problem has afflicted 6 restaurants in Emmitsburg that we've visited recently, including 2 of the best. Is it contagious?

Actually, it seems to be restaurant policy everywhere; something in the manual — "keep the tables rocking." Is there anyone who has eaten at a restaurant who has *not* put a sweetener packet, or a napkin, or a folded picture of his boss, under a table leg in order to eat fearlessly?

Here's a suggestion, inspired by Don Quixote — Every time you escape a swaying restaurant table, put a sweetener packet at your place to glare up at the waiter. Do nothing more drastic. Unless you're drenched, or scalded.

P.S. Yes, our country is loaded with the worst deficit ever and faces an unimaginably expensive and destructive war. The mid-East may explode in flames of hatred against America. Terrorists may rise up at home like locusts. The poor keep being made poorer. There are illegal drugs in Emmitsburg still, as there were 5 years ago. The Town needs new revenue and wants to sell its birthright to get it.

No apologies, though, for the foregoing outburst. Occasionally, a serious look at a trifle like teetering tables can take our minds off the really bad stuff.

This column is presented as a service to those who cannot attend the performances at the Emmitsburg Town meeting on the first Monday of the month.



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TOWN NEWS

Town Manager's Report for February 2003

Emmitsburg Town Manager Dave Haller's February report is excerpted and summarized here.

Water

Rainbow Lake is full. The wells hold about as much as in the last non-drought year, 2001. Daily average consumption was 268,650 gallons.

Wastewater

1. Another raw sewage spill occurred Feb. 22-23. Staff unclogged a few sewer mains of grease and rags. Some were sites of the spills. Staff flushed the main intake pipe to the wastewater treatment plant in an effort to alleviate sewage spill problems. But they are still struggling with the large

in-flows of wild water at the wastewater treatment plant.

The Town consumed only an average of 268,650 gallons per day (GPD) of drinking water but we treated an average of 361,000 GPD. This means that during this period the Town was treating an average of 92,350 GPD of wild water, in addition to what people use, or, 26 percent of all water treated at the plant in February was wild water. On 2 days this month we treated over one million gallons (the average capacity of the plant is only 800,000 GPD)

2. Mr. Raymond Stubbs has filled the vacant position on the Department of Public Works staff at the water & sewer plant.

A word from a commissioner

Heroin problem in Emmitsburg said to be small but real

As a member of the Emmitsburg Town Council, I have faced many challenges and made some very tough decisions. I like to focus on the merits of each issue and the input of fellow citizens. Sometimes I am forced to take an unpopular position, but always vote with the best interests of the town in mind. Over the last several months, I have requested specific information on drug arrests in Emmitsburg. I was stunned to hear that heroin has made its way into our community. As a Congressional staffer, I have been witness to the horrible effects that heroin has on individuals, communities and whole nations. But, I never thought it would follow me home. According to the Frederick News Post, Emmitsburg and surrounding communities have a problem with heroin. It cannot be solved unless people endeavor to solve

it. If we allow a small heroin problem to grow without being checked, it will one day take over and destroy our kids, our families and eventually our community.

This problem exists and we must work together to solve it. I cannot go it alone. Although I have received some support, I have not seen the groundswell I expected. I again urge my neighbors to join me in an effort to keep our kids away from drugs. Emmitsburg is a precious community which I expect to call home until I depart this life. At no time will I ever willfully impugn its reputation or the reputation of its citizens. However, when a problem arises here, I will work tirelessly to identify it, bring it to the people and have it resolved.

—Ted Brennan

Emmitsburg Town Commissioner

A word from the Mayor

Answer to: What does the Town do for Ambulance and Fire companies?

Last month I received a question asking, "What does the Town government do to help our much needed truly dedicated volunteers of our ambulance and fire companies?"

No matter if it is volunteer staff or paid career service employees, the county government has the overall responsibility for providing ambulance and fire service to every community. Emmitsburg Town government provides additional assistance to the Emmitsburg Volunteer Ambulance and Volunteer Fire companies in the form of monetary donations.

Each year (normally in April) the Town of Emmitsburg makes a \$3000 cash donation to each company. In addition the Town waives all sewer and water bills for each company. The cost savings to the ambulance company for waiving their sewer and water bills last year alone was \$1216. The cost savings to the fire company for waiving their sewer and water bills last year was \$2130.

In addition to waiving the sewer and water fees and the \$3000 annual donations, the Town has also made contributions for the new fire trucks recently purchased. In the past 8 years the Town has pledged \$37,000 to the Fire Company for the purchase of the Tower truck and Engine Truck 64. These pledges were considered by the Town Council on behalf of the Fire Company coming to Town meetings

and making a formal request that the Town Council consider making an additional donation to the Fire Company, which the proceeds would go solely towards the purchase of a new truck.

Each of the pledges was paid to the Fire Company in annual increments until the pledge was paid in full. At the time this question was received, the Town had no records that indicate that the Town had made any additional donations to the Ambulance Company for the purchase of new ambulances. Since that time I have talked to the Ambulance Company to ask if they were planning to ask the Town Council for a donation towards the purchase of their new ambulance.

One other thing the Town does to help our volunteer Ambulance Company and Fire Company, employees working for the Town are permitted to leave their Town job to go on emergency calls. This policy is not only in place to help the Ambulance or Fire Company, but also for the well-being of our entire community. About the only time the Town does not permit employees to leave their Town job to go on an emergency call is when the Town is short staffed. Employees continue to receive their normal wages when they leave their Town job to respond to an emergency call.

— Jim Hoover

Mayor of Emmitsburg



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Haller asks pay for snow work of Town employees on day off

By Bill Steo
Editor

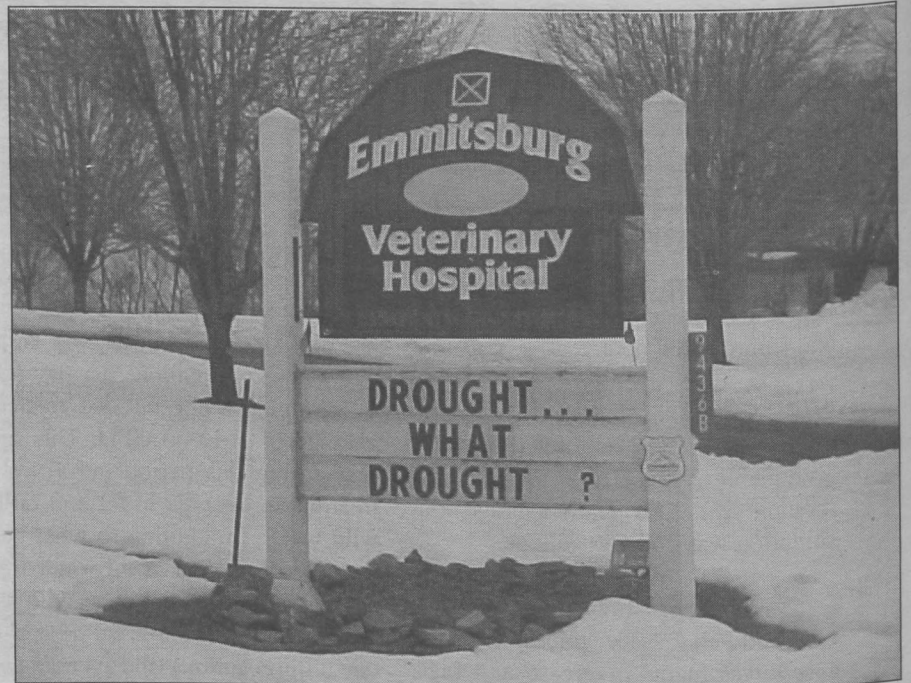
The heavy snowfall of the weekend of Feb. 15 closed schools, businesses and government offices in this region of America. But it did not keep Jim Click and other public workers inside by a wood stove. Putting in 14 hours per day when other Town workers had a day off, they freed Emmitsburg from the grip of the snow.

With snowplow and truck they cleared the streets and moved a huge amount of snow to the Memorial Park behind the Post Office. Their work did not go unnoticed.

Citizens in attendance at the Town meeting, Mar. 3, applauded them as

Town Manager Dave Haller described what they did and asked the mayor and commissioners to pay them for it. He asked that they be paid both for the hours they worked on an off day (when other Town employees were paid for 8 hours although excused from work), and for the actual time they worked, which ranged from 12 to 15 hours, for an average of 14 hours. With a unanimous vote, the board of commissioners agreed.

Supervisor Jim Click of Emmitsburg's Public Works Department was supported by members of his crew, Chris Wantz and Dave Wantz, and by members of the Sewer and Water Department: Supervisor Dan Fissel, and Troy Wastler and Rick Taylor.



Is the Town still in a drought?

Emmitsburg has abundant water

By Raymond Buchheister
Publisher

Despite rising well levels and melting snow, the memory of last year's drought remains firmly in the minds of many people.

According to the Maryland Department of Environment (MDE), the drought was among the worst in the past century, rivaling serious water shortages in the 1960's. Stream flow and ground water levels in the central region set all-time record lows.

The MDE said, however, "Above normal precipitation over the past several months has helped to restore stream flow and ground water levels across the State." Upon lifting all remaining Emergency Drought Restrictions for this region on Feb. 20, Gov. Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr., said, "I encourage citizens to continue to conserve water by repairing leaks, installing low-flow fixtures and appliances, and adopting smart water use habits."

On Mar. 4 Thurmont commissioners made a change to their public facilities ordinance to minimize the impact of water supply problems, such as a drought. Thurmont will now refrain from using 20 percent of the water that the town can provide.

Emmitsburg's Rainbow Lake, Town Manager Dave Haller reports, is full and well levels are down only 2.8 percent compared to February 2001, the area's last non-drought year.

The MDE has allocated to the Town (allowed it to use) 523,000 gallons of drinkable water per day; this allocated amount is called its "capacity."

Emmitsburg could provide much more by tapping into other water

sources. It has an arrangement with Mount St. Mary's to obtain 100,000 GPD from the College by simply turning on a valve. It could obtain more water from 2 additional wells that already have MDE approval, but the wells need to be connected and the water needs treatment. These 2 wells have a combined capacity of 123,000 GPD.

In fact Haller reports that during peak periods the most water that Emmitsburg uses is 320,000 GPD — only 61 percent of the Town's capacity, which does not include its untapped resources. In February it reported consumption of an average of 268,650 GPD.

If Emmitsburg were to adopt the same ordinance change as Thurmont, its capacity would still be about 418,000 GPD, much more than it normally uses.

Dan Fissel, Emmitsburg's Sewer and Water supervisor, said that, during the depth of the drought, the Town's ability to draw water was down about 1/3 from its capacity. "Right now I can pump as much water as I'm allocated but people need to realize that a well this time of year isn't the same as during a drought."

The MDE monitors stream flow and ground water levels. When water levels become low during long periods without rain, MDE regulates water so that resources don't dry up. It regulates by mandatory water restrictions.

The Town may also impose further restrictions of its own. Fissel said getting through a drought is done by using less water and managing the amount of water taken from each resource. "The townspeople helped us a great deal by conserving water, which enabled us to get through the drought," Fissel said.

Committee Vacancies

The Town of Emmitsburg has vacancies on the following committees:

Water Committee	Streets Committee	Board of Appeals
Ethics Committee	Parks Committee	Planning and Zoning

Please send a letter of interest to the town office indicating on which committee(s) you would like to serve.

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An Emmitsburgian reaches 99

By Wayne Baumgardner
Special to The Emmitsburg
Dispatch

C. Elizabeth Nester was born on a farm on the south side of Simmons Rd. The farm lane parallels the Emmitsburg-Taneytown Road. When she was 9 years old her father moved the family to Baltimore City. They lived in a rented house for a year or so until her father took money out of the bank to purchase a house on nearby Groveland Ave. Just in time. If he had not done that he would have lost all of the money when the banks failed as a result of the stock market crash.

Ms Nester attended Baltimore schools, received her undergraduate degree from Johns Hopkins and, I suppose while she was teaching and in the summers, a Masters from Columbia University in New York. She taught at several schools in Baltimore. Her nephew says one student was baseball Hall-of-Famer Al Kaline of the Detroit Tigers.

In about 1954 C. Elizabeth married James L Nester who owned the large farm at the eastern edge of Emmitsburg, bordered by Flat Run Creek. That farm land is now the shopping center and the Silo Hill



development. As an aside, before James L Nester owned that farm, it belonged to my grandfather, Thomas Baumgardner.

J. L. Nester kept one of those building lots for himself and built the brick rancher at 10332 Harney Rd. in about 1957. The farm was later sold but she and J. L. continued to live in the house they had built. Ms Nester continued to teach and commute to Baltimore City for about another 10 years before she retired. I think she taught History.

C. Elizabeth's mother came to live with her at this property, J. L. died, and she continued to care for

her mother, Susan Morrison, until Susan died at almost age 105. Then, as each of Ms. Nester's brothers' wives died, they too came to live with her and she cared for both of them until their deaths at about 92 or 93 years of age.

Ms. Nester was a world traveler before the aviation age. She went to Cuba twice, I think, before Castro. They took that scary RR bridge elevated over water through the Florida Keys to Key West and then flew in a little airplane — I am guessing that it was a DC 3 — to Havana. She went to Europe 6 times. She traveled to Canada and Mexico, to Australia and New Zealand, Singapore and, I think, China. I think one of her trips to Europe was on a work boat.

Ms. Nester was a cousin of my father. She had no children and her closest relatives are Robert and Richard Morrison, the 2 sons of her one brother; but they live in Ohio and Florida. In about 1992 she needed help in daily living and my sister began fixing the evening meal and looking after her. Later someone was hired to do house cleaning and to get her up and fix her morning meal. So, with help, she continued to live in her home on Harney Rd until she broke her

hip about a year ago. After that she was unable to walk and would have needed 24 hour care and was no longer able to live alone. She has now been in St. Catherine's for just about a year.

On Feb. 9 C. Elizabeth Morrison Nester turned 99 years of age. A luncheon celebration was held on Feb. 11 at the Carriage House Inn. Those in attendance were, Billy Waesche, Mary Alice Waesche Benson, Edgar Benson, Rick Morrison, Robert Morrison, Audrey Baumgardner, and myself.

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County litter clean-up to raise money for 35 nonprofit groups

The second annual countywide Big Sweep takes place March 22. This cleanup of roadsides and illegal dumpsites is a fundraiser set up like a walk-a-thon. Participants clean up litter throughout the County and in the City. Last year more than 500 volunteers collected over 11 tons of trash, 4 tons of recyclables, 443 tires and 5 truckloads of miscellaneous bulk trash.

Before the event, participants collect donations from friends, neighbors and colleagues to sponsor their cleanup work. Funds go to 35 nonprofit organizations. Participants decide which ones receive the money.

The event begins with a breakfast for participants. Volunteer Frederick will provide supplies, including trash bags, gloves, and safety items. All participants will receive a coupon good for \$5-off at Casa-Rico Mexican Restaurant. Any participant who raises more than \$35 receives a Big Sweep t-shirt

Last year more than \$25,000 was

raised for partnering nonprofit organizations. They receive at least 75 percent of the collected funds, and Volunteer Frederick retains 25 percent to cover the costs of administering the event.

Emmitsburg/Thurmont area organizations that are participating include Boy Scout Troop 270, Catocin Region Guiding Eyes for the Blind, Catocin High School FFA, Cub Scout Troop 270 and the Thorpe Foundation.

Volunteer Frederick is collaborating with Frederick County Department of Highways and Solid Waste, the City of Frederick, and the Thorpe Foundation to plan the logistics of the event, such as trash bag pick-up and disposal.

Participants must register by March 14 by completing and returning a registration form to Volunteer Frederick. For a Big Sweep brochure, which includes registration and contribution forms, call 301-663-5214. Visit www.volunteerfrederick.org

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RELIGION

Nun on the Run

By Debbie Hobbs.

Sr. Mary Bernadette Forney, D.C., did not reach her 80th birthday unnoticed. Sixty-four of her friends gathered for a brunch in her honor at the Carriage House on February 2. But they had to catch up with her first. Her friend, Debbie Hobbs, calls Sister Bernadette, "Nun on the run," because of her active life. She charges forth from the Provincial House to visit the sick in their homes in Emmitsburg, and at several nursing centers and homes.

Marion Lee Levandowski, who arranged for the brunch, heard many stories of her exploits and set about collecting them. One, by Shirley Dillon, former parish secretary at St. Joseph's Catholic Church, tells why a policeman told her not to pray so hard.

"The Law From Above"

For a period of 3 years, I drove Sister Mary Bernadette to Frederick once a week. Several years ago, I was driving sister on one of these weekly jaunts, down through the back roads when, all of a sudden, I noticed lights flashing behind us. "Sister," I said, "They can't be for me!" She seemed to agree and so

I continued on our way. But the flashing lights were still blinking behind us and I realized, to my dismay, that the police car wanted me to stop and pull over.

The officer came up to my side with a clipboard and pen in hand. In a stern voice, he said: "You were going 35 miles in a 25-mile-an-hour speed zone." All I could think of to say was, "Really?" At that moment, Sister Mary Bernadette spoke up and said: "Officer, this is my fault. We were praying the rosary and we were praying so hard for these people we forgot what we were doing!"

Somewhat disarmed, the officer looked at me and then at sister, with an expression that said: "These ladies can't possibly be making this one up!" Still, he asked me for my driver's license. After checking it out, he looked at me once again, then at sister and, after a long dramatic pause, he spoke up: "Ladies, this time I'll just give you a warning, but the next time: *don't pray so hard!*"

With Sister Mary Bernadette at my side, I realized and was very grateful that the Law from above was watching over us.

A word from the pulpit

The Lenten Season, a special time of grace

By Rev. William O'Brien, C.M.
Pastor, St. Joseph's Catholic Church

The Lenten season, for most Christian churches, begins on Ash Wednesday, March 5. Through the centuries, the Lenten season has been recognized as a special time of grace. It was and is seen as the season for Christians to prepare themselves for the celebration of the Paschal Mystery of Jesus Christ on Easter Sunday. While different practices were emphasized at different times, two constants remain, at least in the Roman Catholic tradition.

First, in this tradition, Lent is seen as a time of proximate preparation for those who are preparing to celebrate, during the Easter Vigil Service, the Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist. Having spent a year or more in prayer and study, the Lenten season is the final step in their preparation. For those who are already initiated in the Church, Lent is a time to prepare themselves to renew, at Easter, their baptismal promises.

The second element in the Lenten season is the practice of doing penance. Beginning with the reception of ashes on Ash Wednesday, we are encouraged to perform acts of penance during the 40 days of Lent. Traditionally, based on the words of Jesus found in the sixth chapter of St. Matthew's Gospel, these acts of penance stress the practices of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving.

Through prayer, we are encouraged to reflect on the saving actions of Jesus. We reflect on how, through His suffering and death, Jesus destroyed the power of sin; and how, through His resurrection, Jesus destroyed the power of death itself.

Through the practice of fasting, we are asked to eat and/or drink less or to give up some things that we find enjoyable. The purpose of fasting is not simply to give up certain legitimate and enjoyable foods or drinks or activities. Rather, by doing so, we can to some small degree experience the hunger that is a part of the lives of many of our brothers and sisters throughout the world. Also, fasting is an opportunity to empty ourselves of material things so that we can be more open and attuned to the things of God.

Through almsgiving, we are invited to share some of our material possessions with those who are in need. The money that we may save by doing without or with less food and drink or by not attending some social activity, can be given to one's church or to a charitable organization to be used for the poor. By sharing some of our money or other material goods, we can, hopefully, recognize that we need to depend less on these things and more on the goodness of God. Almsgiving can help a person put possessions and the use of material goods in a proper perspective.

May this Lenten season be a time of grace and growth for each of us.



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Emmitsburg Area Churches

Incarnation United Church of Christ

Founded in 1758 as a German Reformed Congregation. In 1860's the church moved into town. The current brick building was rebuilt after a fire in 1950. The current congregation is now UCC.

124 West Main St.

Sunday service: 10 a.m.

Interim Pastor: Rev. Ted Haas

301-447-2270

St. Joseph's Roman Catholic

St. Joseph's Parish dates its beginning to 1786. Rev. Matthew Ryan was the first resident Pastor. The Parish has been administered by the Vincentian Community since 1852. The present church was completed in 1842.

100 N. Seton Avenue

Weekly services: Monday - 7:30

p.m.(with the Miraculous Medal Novena); Tuesday through Saturday - 8:30 a.m.; Saturday Evening - 4:30 p.m.; Sundays- 8:00, 10:15, 12:00 noon.

Pastor: Rev. William O'Brien, C.M.

301-447-2326

St. Anthony Shrine

St. Anthony's roots intertwine with the old St. Mary's on the Hill and date back to the 1700s. Our present church, St. Anthony Shrine, opened its doors on October 26, 1897.

16150 St. Anthony's Road

Mass schedule: Saturday, 4:00 p.m., Sunday, 7:00 a.m. & 9:30 a.m.

Pastor: Rev. James W. Hannon

Trinity United Methodist Church

Trinity United Methodist Church was founded in 1833. The present sanctuary was built in 1807. Trinity has been

a religious presence in Emmitsburg for 168 years.

313 West Main St.

Services 9:00 a.m. Sunday School, 10 a.m.

Pastor: Rev. Wade A. Martin

Emmitsburg Presbyterian

Emmitsburg Presbyterian Church has been a part of the Emmitsburg Community since before the American Revolution. The original meeting house stood about a mile north of Emmitsburg along the Gettysburg Rd. The grave of Samuel Emmitt, founder of Emmitsburg, is located in the old cemetery.

415 West Main St.

Service 11:00 a.m.

Pastor: Rev. R. Benjamin Jones

Tom's Creek United Methodist

10926 Simmons Road

Sunday Services at 8:15 and 10:30

Pastor: Rev. Bill Warehime

301-447-2693

Elias Evangelical Lutheran

In 1797 the Lutheran and Reformed congregations built a sanctuary in Emmitsburg after they outgrew their shared church at Tom's Creek. The Reformed congregation constructed a new church in 1869 on West Main Street while the Lutherans remained in the stone church where they continue to worship today.

100 West North Avenue

Sunday School, 9 a.m.

Worship Service

(Holy Communion) 10:30 a.m.

Interim Pastor: David. S. Knodel

301-447-6239

OBITUARIES

Mr. Walter Fogle

Mr. Walter Joseph "Joe" Fogle, 46, of Emmitsburg, died Thursday, Feb. 13, in Hamptonville, N.C. He was the husband of Terry Smith Fogle. Born in Frederick, he was the son of the late Max Ray and Mary Jane Wolfe Fogle. For the past 8 years, Mr. Fogle drove a truck, a profession he loved, and spent the last 2 years driving for Oak Bluff Farms of Rocky Ridge.

Surviving in addition to his wife are 2 daughters, Rebecca Lynn Gooden and Stacy Marie Fogle, one son, Walter Joseph Fogle, Jr., Emmitsburg; 2 sisters, Maxine L. Fogle and Judith K. Rogers; and 3 brothers, Marlin Ray Fogle, Allen Lee Fogle, and Donald Wayne Fogle.

The Rev. Suzanne Morris officiated at funeral services at the Stauffer Funeral Home. Interment was in Resthaven Memorial Gardens.

Hazel G. Kepner



Mrs. Hazel Gertrude Kaylor-Abell Kepner, 92, formerly of Emmitsburg, MD died Tuesday,

January 28 at the Heritage Park Nursing Home, Dade City, FL. Born in Spring Gap Mt. WV, she had lived on Mt. View Road, Emmitsburg, since 1940 until recently when she moved to Florida with her daughter Judy. She was retired from the Emmitsburg Shoe Factory.

Mrs. Kepner and her husband Lawrence owned and operated the Blue Duck Inn in Emmitsburg for many years.

Surviving are 3 daughters: Judy Abell Gouchenour Stitt, Helen Abell Goulden, and Josephine Kathrynann Abell Hartman Maple.

Funeral services were held at the Skiles Funeral Home, the Rev. Wayne Stoutler officiating. After cremation inurnment was in the Fairfield Union Cemetery.

Gen. Horst Zeugner

Brigadier General Horst Zeugner, 103, died Thursday, Feb. 27, at St. Catherine's Nursing Center. Born in Stuttgart, Germany, he joined the German army after leaving the gymnasium and served in the Franco-Prussian war. Later he immigrated to the United States where he obtained a U. S. citizenship and joined the U.S. army. In accordance with his will, he was cremated and the ashes shipped for interment in the Sturm und Drang Park in Stuttgart.

Take Note

Round trip to cost \$25 billion

Just moving troops and equipment to the Persian Gulf and back would cost about \$25 billion, the Congressional Budget Office estimates. Estimates of the cost of a war with Iraq range into the trillions of dollars.



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Founding Date

—Continued from page 1

chided Hillman like a father scolding a child. He spoke directly to Hillman, who sat in the front row at a distance of only about 8 feet. "You changed Welty's article and that was wrong... You give no footnotes in your own papers so that your facts can be verified... You don't accept oral history."

Boyle also questioned the authenticity of the Emmitsburg Area Historical Society which Hillman claims to represent. "Truthfully, I want to know, Does Emmitsburg have a historical society?... Do you have a charter? Do you have officers? Do you collect dues? Or, is it just a fly-by-night organization?" He questioned whether the Society is an officially recognized organization, or just a group of people that met to discuss Emmitsburg history. Hillman respectfully listened to Commissioner Boyle and made no reply.

Boyle recommended that 1757 be maintained as the Town's founding date, but that 1785 be identified as the date the Town was laid out, and 1825 as the Town's incorporation date.

The act of making a decision seemed hard for the Board. Apparently not knowing what to do, Boyle insisted, "I don't think this issue will die unless this Board takes some action, because," referring to Hillman, "I don't think he'll let it die."

Mayor Jim Hoover said he didn't think just one person but many would keep the issue in dispute. In an interview with *The Emmitsburg Dispatch*, Mayor Hoover criticized Boyle for his demeanor towards Hillman, saying his actions "were improper and not those of a people-friendly government."

The Mayor said he received a letter dated Feb 21, 2003, from Timothy J. Shannon, Associate Professor of History at Gettysburg College. A historian of Early America who specializes in the eighteenth century, he wrote after reviewing materials, "it appears obvious to me that Emmitsburg's founding date should be considered 1785, not 1757.... 1785 seems appropriate because that is when the first Town lots were laid out. I see no evidence for claiming 1757 as a founding date."

The Board found it difficult to formulate a motion. In the first act of this Town drama, Commissioner

Cliff Sweeney said, "I don't think I'm qualified to change anything." But, after rewording his thoughts several times and asking fellow commissioners how to formulate a motion, he finally offered one, that the Board take no action concerning the founding date and to replace "Founded 1757" with "Incorporated 1825" on items representing the Town government. Then, he said he wanted to table this attempted motion, which had not been seconded or voted on.

After Sweeney explained what he hoped the Board would do, the next act began. Commissioner Boyle seconded the motion that Sweeney wanted tabled, and called for a vote. It seemed only he and Sweeney voted; Rosensteel abstained.

The confusion then got out of control as in some old opera. Town officials talked back and forth about what actions they could or should take, and, while doing so, took some actions. The spectacle could be reported only by quoting the stenographer's records.

The *Emmitsburg Dispatch* now pauses for an intermission.

In the final act Commissioner Brennan said he agreed that the Board take no action concerning the founding date and that the incorporation date be put on official items, but said the Board of Commissioners should act that night and "just get it over with."

So (a) Boyle rescinded his second to Sweeney's motion, at which (b) Sweeney rescinded it, so that (c) Brennan could make the same motion, but (d) without a call to table it. In the end Boyle, Brennan, and Sweeney approved this. Rosensteel abstained.

The drama went downhill from there as the Board took up other agenda items till the curtain closed.

The welcome signs. Emmitsburg's commissioners left several issues unresolved, such as planning the Town's 250th anniversary celebration in which Town officials may be involved, and what to do with the welcome signs which need repair.

The signs were the occasion for the argument about the Town's founding date to begin. Last year the Streets Committee took up the matter of repainting the worn signs. Mayor Hoover mentioned it to Mike Hillman who then told him that the date is wrong. Hoover suggested that he brief the Town Council on the subject.

Ownership of the signs is another unresolved question. Last year

those requesting refurbishment of the signs assumed they belonged to the Town and the Town apparently assumed the same thing.

In October, as if owning the signs, the Town sought an estimate for repainting them from the original sign painter, Butch Eyler Signs. One of the signs, which was located on the East side of Town by Jubilee, was hit by a car and reposes in the Town's garage. Eyler said he gave the Town quotes for replacing the damaged sign, and for repainting the others.

The National Register. The welcome signs were created as the result of the larger project to get Emmitsburg listed on the National Historic Register. It was Crystal Gauss, not a past historical society, who spearheaded the project. After 12 years of work by her and several associates, the objective was achieved. Emmitsburg was listed in the Register of Historic Places on March 10, 1992.

Gauss said, "At the time we worked in conjunction with the Planning and Zoning Committee to come up with the signs, but it was the Emmitsburg Business and Professional Association (EBPA) which financed them." She said that, after the signs were installed, "we assumed their ownership and maintenance would be taken over by the Town government."

Since the signs were painted at the request of Crystal Gauss's late husband Robert, not by the Town, and since they reside on private properties, the Town may decide either to own, or only maintain them, or do nothing about them.

Crystal Gauss thinks that if the Town refuses to own and maintain the signs, responsibility for them would fall back to the EBPA which paid for them.

If the Town concedes it owns the welcome signs, it may be forced to take a position in the founding date argument in order to refurbish them. However, many see the signs, not as a representation of the Town government, but as reminders of the Town's age and its origin near the time of our country's birth. Some have said they would be extremely distressed to see the incorporation date replace what they have chosen as the founding date, 1757.

Since the signs were created in conjunction with the listing of Emmitsburg in the National Historic Register, several citizens have said the date on them should reflect the terms used in the Register. It does

not designate a date for the founding of Emmitsburg but states that "settlement occurred in the vicinity from the 1730s" and the "initial development of the Town" in 1785. No other dates are mentioned.

Chris Gauss, one of the successors to his father's land surveying company, Robert F. Gauss and Associates, said, "I believe, if there was a real problem with the date that was used on the welcome sign, my father would have put forth the effort to research and change it... I don't think this argument can be settled until you first decide what constitutes the founding of a Town."

Chris Gauss said that in the 1750s settlers didn't actually own the land they lived on and, although records may not show it, there is no way to prove there were no people living there or that homes were not there at that time.

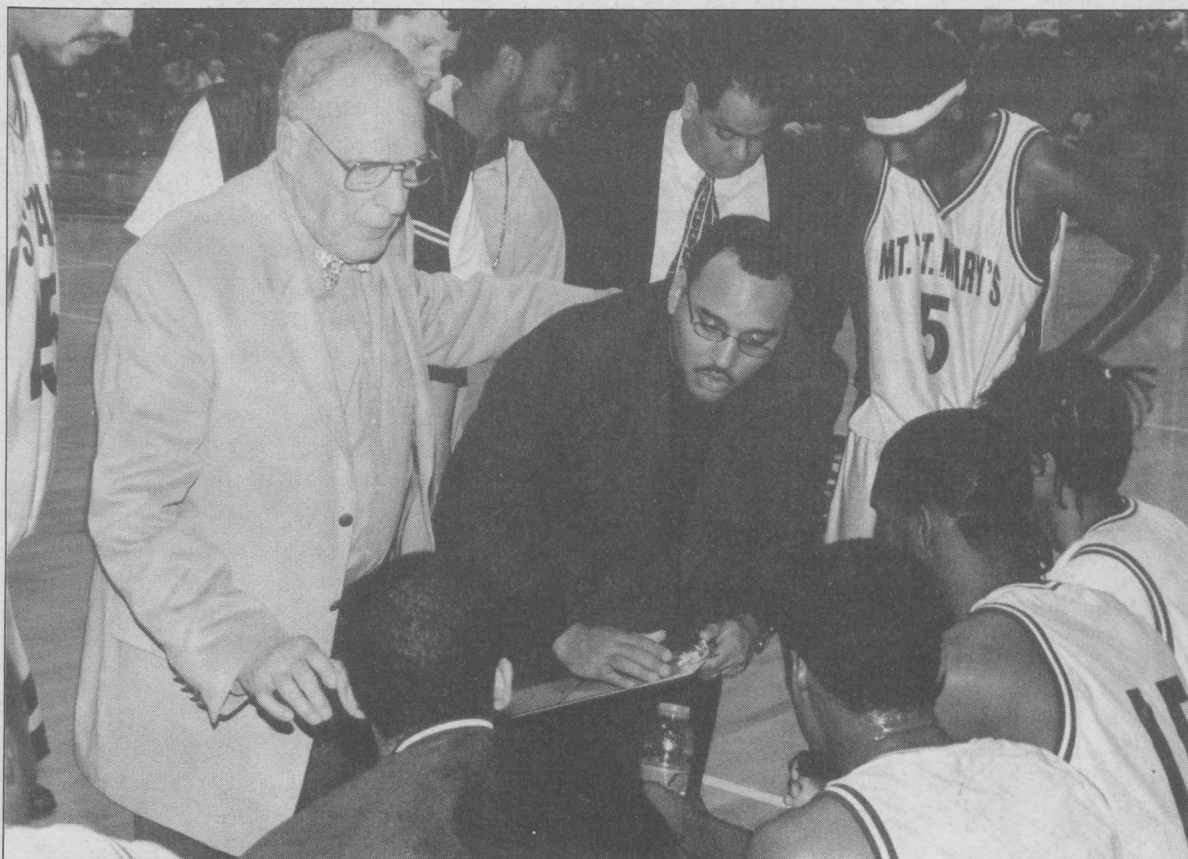
Another thing that should be considered, Chris Gauss said, is the span of time from when someone starts to plan a Town until the plat is actually recorded.

He believes the founding date is intricately tied to the Town's founder. He questioned, "Who is the Town named after? Who does the Town recognize as its founder?" Traditionally Samuel Emmit has been considered the Town's founding father. His purchase of 2,250 acres from Charles Carroll in 1757 is the land that eventually came to include the Town of Emmitsburg and it appears that at that time there were settlers somewhere on that tract.

Hillman claims, however, that Samuel Emmit deeded land to his son William, for the purpose of establishing a town. He said, "It is William Emmit who went out and sold the lots to the Town, not Samuel. Thus it should be William who should be credited with establishing Emmitsburg, not Samuel."

About this claim Chris Gauss raises the question, Was the plan for the Town Samuel Emmit's, and did he have his son William execute it? Or did William Emmit acquire the land from his father to execute his own plans? The 1785 deed in which Samuel conveys land to William Emmit, says that "lots of a new town called Emmitsburg (called so for how long?) are laid out (since when?)"

Hillman eagerly awaits court records from the Maryland Archives. He claims the documents include testimony from William Emmit and others whom, he thinks, are involved in the founding of Emmitsburg.



—RAYMOND BUCHHEISTER/THE EMMITSBURG DISPATCH

Coach Jim Phelan, L, and his successor Milan Brown huddle with their players to discuss strategy during a time-out in a game earlier this season.

The Mountaineers' bow-tie coach bows out amid general applause

By Raymond Buchheister, *Publisher*
and Bill Steo, *Editor*

By now many readers of The Emmitsburg Dispatch know the story of Jim Phelan and the summit event on March 1. The life of the man sounds like a legend, but it is all astonishing fact. The event was a summit in his life, but also in the history of Emmitsburg whose memory already holds a library of historic events.

Jim Phelan and Emmitsburg:

The Town of Emmitsburg conferred 2 distinct honors on Coach Jim Phelan. It made a proclamation "in appreciation of service to the Emmitsburg community," signed by the mayor and the commissioners, and Mayor Hoover presented him with the key to city. Emmitsburg Commissioner Pat Boyle — a Mount alumnus who played under Phelan — spoke on behalf of the Town, saying, "Your students and this community have been enriched by your wisdom, counsel and undying dedication to the game you so well represent."

Coach Phelan himself made some illuminating comments that were recorded by The Emmitsburg Dispatch. He compared his life to the title of the movie, *It's a Wonderful Life*, and said, "I've had that wonderful life." He said, "My career has been a journey of love"

Jim Phelan grew up in the city and said he never saw a farm until he came to Emmitsburg.

He had many offers to leave the Mount but his wife and children didn't want to go. He said the quality of life here is good, friends and neighbors are good, and it's good to work and live among fine people. As for the Emmitsburg community, he said, "These people are the salt of the earth."

He added, "I'm not quite accepted as a native yet

but my kids are and that makes it all right." But, he said, there was "an instant love affair between the town and Dottie," that has never changed.

About March 1, 2003:

The Mount went through 6 coaches in 8 years before they brought in Phelan. They were looking for continuity and got it. In his 49 years at the Mount, he has lived through 7 college presidents and 10 U.S. presidents. He will be succeeded by his former assistant coach, 32-year-old Milan Brown. The former Howard University player has achieved his long-time aspiration to be a head coach by age 35.

On March 1, 2003, these are the facts:

— Jim Phelan that night coached Mount St. Mary's basketball team against Central Connecticut State,

— It would be his last game — the 1,354th — as head coach,

— Coach Phelan's wife, Dottie, received 49 roses from the cheerleaders, one for each year he coached at the Mount,

— Before the game the sellout crowd stood and applauded when she kissed Phelan for all to see. Roy Sigler, the so-called "Mouth of the Mount," said they are "College basketball's greatest team."

— Emmitsburg's Mayor was there and the Governor of Maryland and sufficient notables to flush out a flock of news media reporters and television crews,

— Gov. Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr., said, "Jim Phelan stands for everything that is good and decent about college athletics." He named March 1 "Coach Jim Phelan Day" in the State of Maryland.

About Jim Phelan personally:

— He had come to Emmitsburg for an interview on a March day in 1954 in a borrowed car with his new wife Dottie and, on this March day, in a stretch

limousine, with the same wife.

— He was then the youngest head coach in the nation and Dottie the youngest coach's wife.

— He was a U.S. Marine who fought in the Korean War.

— He and Dottie reside near the MSM campus. They have 5 grown children: Jim, Lynne, Carol, Larry and Bob, and 9 grandchildren.

— He was diagnosed with prostate cancer about 2 years ago; it was treated with radioactive implants.

— Neither the College nor the prostate cancer event influenced his decision to retire, Phelan says. But why after 49 years? The Emmitsburg Dispatch asked. Why not go for 50? "It's just a number," he said curtly, "who cares?"

About that bow tie:

Bow ties blossomed everywhere in the Knott Arena March 1, and around the country. Coach Phelan had worn one to every game, except for one season. It became his trademark, Dottie says, without either of them realizing it. On March 1 a number of coaches, and even TV announcers, wore bow ties in honor of "Jim Phelan Bow Tie Day."

At a pre-game reception given by Mount President George Houston, Dottie Phelan provided bow ties, from her husband's cache, for many of the 160 guests. Outside Knott Arena freshmen sold brightly colored bow ties.

The bow tie story began when Jim Phelan was getting ready to coach his first game for Mount St. Mary's. Dottie asked him. Which tie do you want to wear? "I don't care." Then, why not wear a bow like Coach Loeffler? That was Ken Loeffler, Jim's own coach at La Salle College. He wore it. He won. He wore it again. And won again. And, then, he wore a bow tie at every game.

In the 1970s Coach Phelan's 2 daughters, Lynne and Carol, nagged him to wear a then-stylish four-in-hand (long) tie. He did — and suffered a season full of defeats. He knew ties did not cause him to lose or win, but after that season, Dottie laid out bow ties.

On March 1 the commissioner of the Northeast Conference of the NCBA came to honor Phelan but he had 2 extra tasks. One was to collect the bow tie Jim Phelan wore at his last game. Phelan allowed Dottie to take his tie off in public and said, "Since the first night in '54 I've let Dottie lay out my tie. I had to let her take it off one last time."

The basketball commissioner's second task was to deliver the bow tie Jim Phelan wore at the last game he coached, to the Hall of Fame in Springfield, OH.

He made a difference

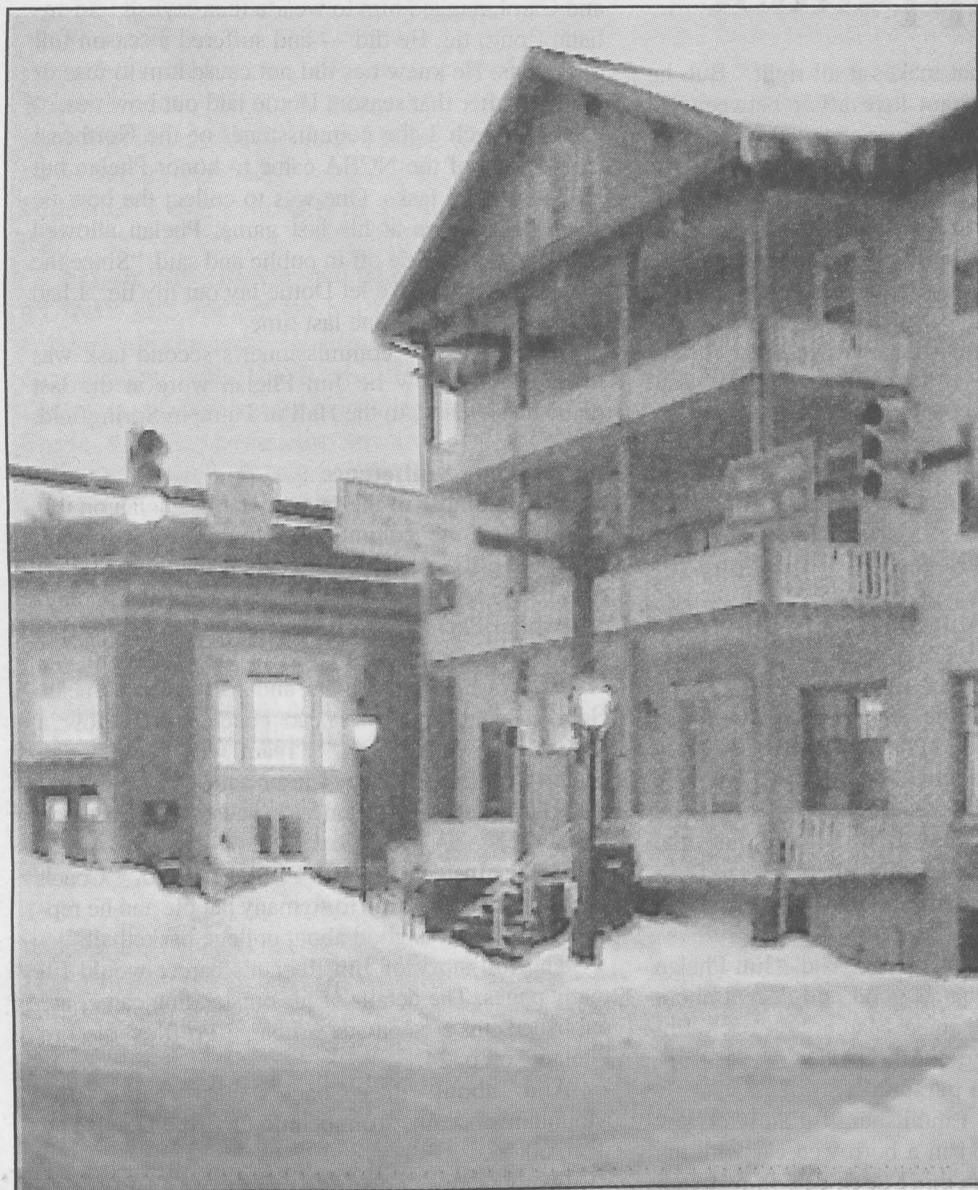
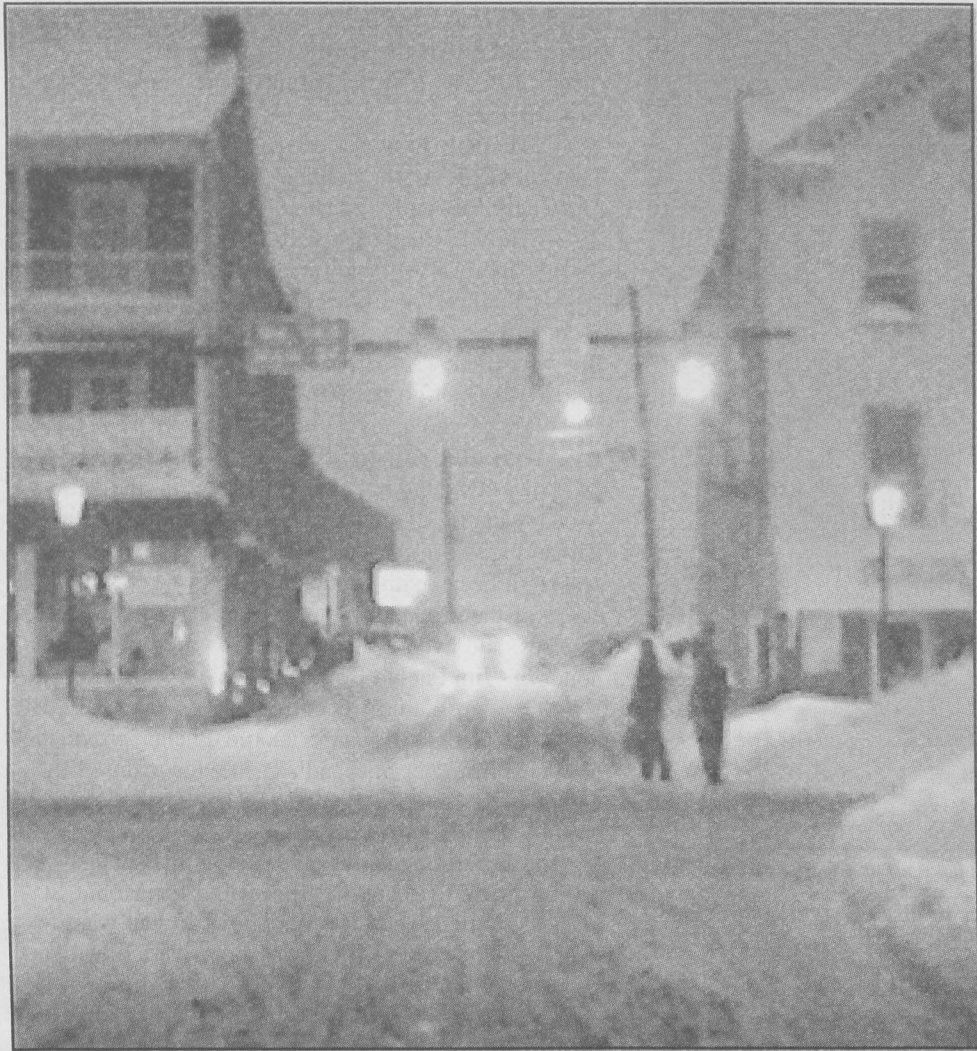
For a glimpse of the impact of Jim Phelan on this world, read the column by Mount Professor A.J. Russo on p.15. A notable statistic is that over 90 percent of his recruits earned degrees. One of his players, whom Phelan thinks may have been his best, is Fred Carter, '69, who played in the NBA with the '76ers, Washington Bullets and Milwaukee Bucks. He became the '76ers' head coach and is now a sportscaster with ESPN. "I am who I am today because of Jim Phelan," Carter said. "Everything I have and everything I am is because Coach Phelan found me."

CollegeInsider.com's Joe Dwyer said, "Coach Phelan is an inspiration to so many people and he represented all that is good about college basketball."

The full story of Jim Phelan's career would fill many pages. The details of his outstanding career are published in a separate article, "Profiles of Jim Phelan," on p. 24.

And about the Coach's last game, the Mountaineers came from behind the Blue Devils and won, 60-56.

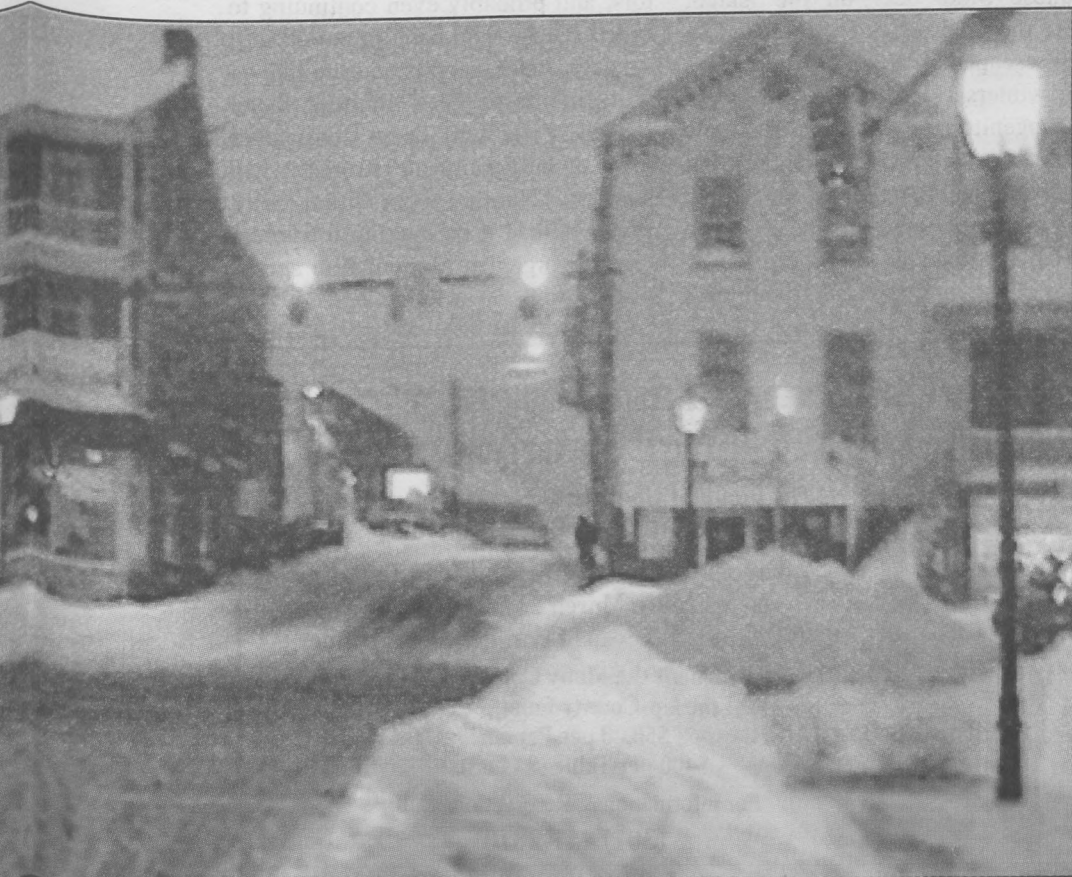
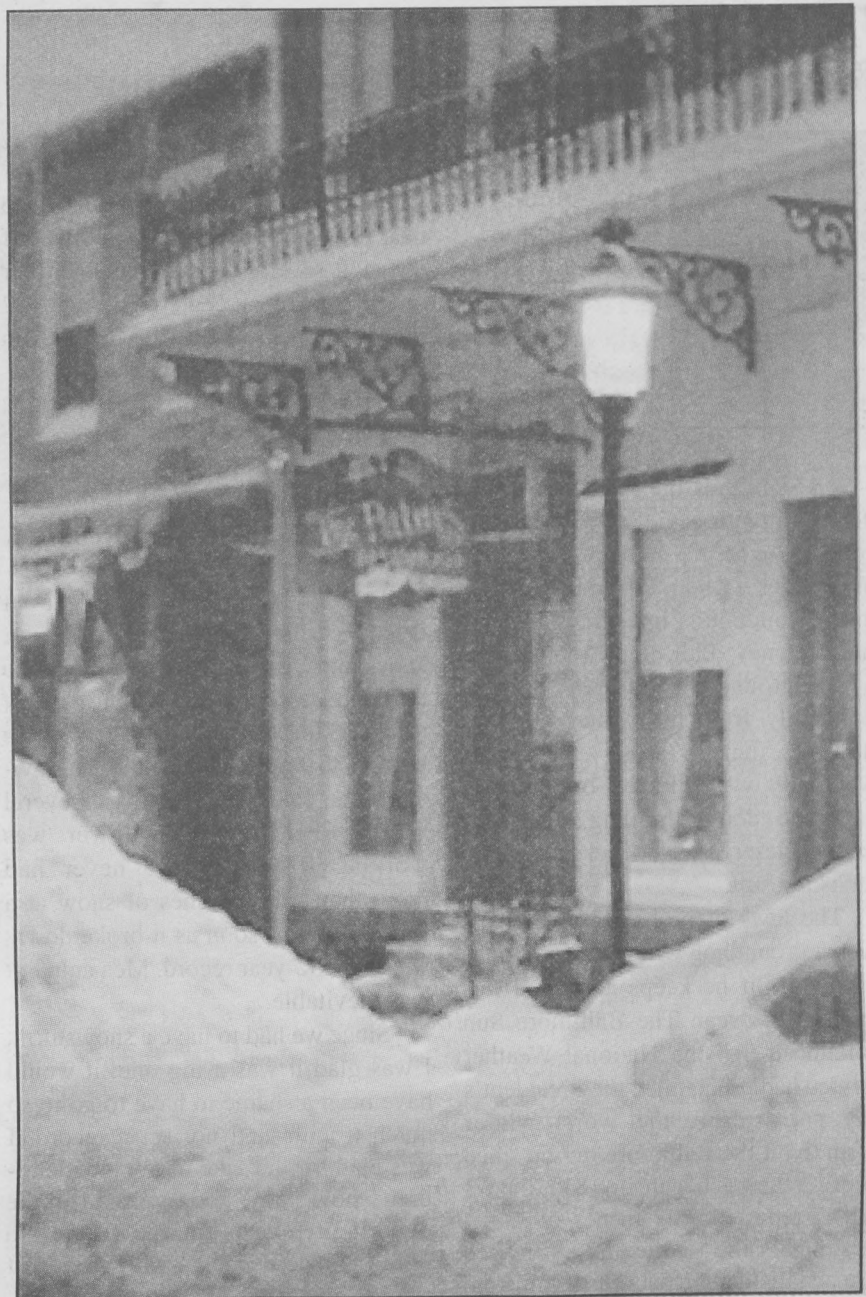
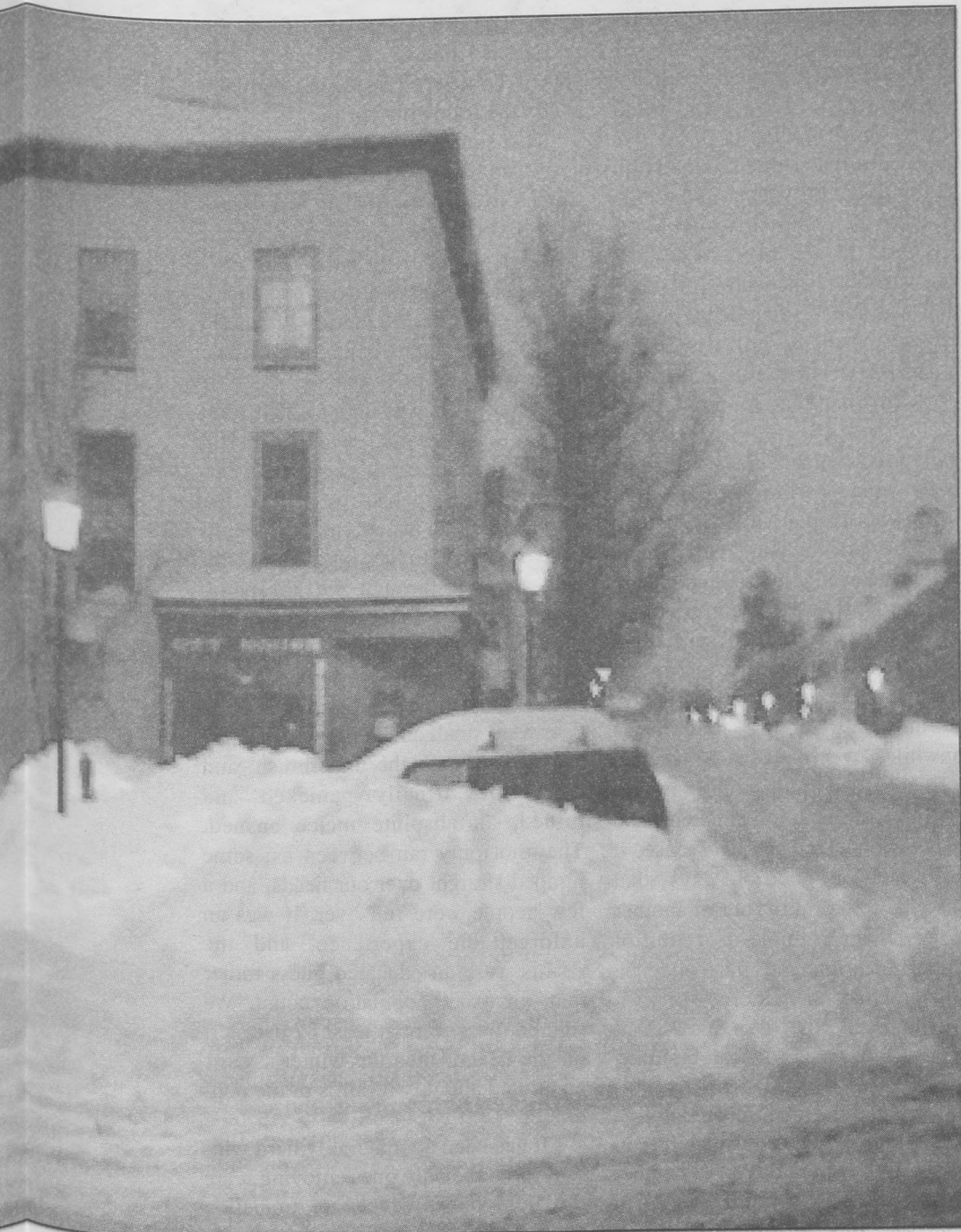
Of course.



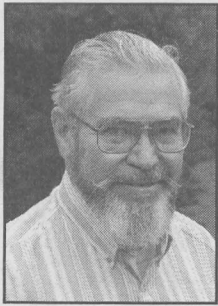
The Record SNOW of 2003

Snow came on Feb. 15, then more snow, some rain, and still more snow throughout the week, blanketing Emmitsburg in soft whiteness. The Frederick News-Post quoted a meteorologist, Brett Anderson: "This is the second highest snowfall reported in the Baltimore-Washington area since 1922 when 26 inches was recorded." Here are some memorable pictures of the Town partly buried by the record snowfall, and of people and equipment digging it out.





The (retired) Ecologist's Bragging rights to snowbound memories



Bill Meredith
Dispatch Writer

The Silly Season arrived on schedule last month. On Feb. 2 reporters from all over the country converged on Gobbler's Knob, PA, to take photos and conduct interviews with Punxatawney Phil, the weather-predicting groundhog. Phil was dragged reluctantly from his winter quarters, blinked resignedly at his shadow, and eventually was allowed to return to sleep, no doubt thinking the pesky humans deserved whatever they might get as a result.

The laws of probability state that even a groundhog will get it right once in a while if he keeps at it, and this must be the year. The Baltimore Sun announced that the National Weather Service had proclaimed the President's Day snowstorm "the worst winter storm to hit the Baltimore region since record-keeping began in 1871." BWI airport reported 28.2 inches of snow; presumably the two-tenths of an inch was a statistical artifact resulting from taking the average of several measurements, since nobody in his right mind

would claim that kind of accuracy from just one measurement.

yard the snow was over 3 feet deep near the house, where it had blown off the roof; several measurements farther out in the open centered around 22 inches. On top of Dan's Mountain in Garrett County, my son spent the better part of a day looking for his truck, which he finally found under more than 4 feet of snow.

Much as I would like to blame the whole mess on the groundhog, honesty requires that I take some of the responsibility for the storm. A couple of weeks earlier, we had 4 inches of snow, and I got the snowblower out to do the necessary clearing; but I forgot to check the oil, and soon the engine ground to a permanent halt. The evidence is clear: for the past several years, when my snowblower was working flawlessly, we never had more than a few inches of snow at a time — and as soon as it broke down, we set a 132-year record. Mea culpa. It was inevitable.

Since we had to have a snowstorm, I was glad it was a big one; it would have been a shame to have to go to so much trouble and not set a record. I was glad for the sake of my grandchildren; now they, too, will have the opportunity, years in the future, to bore their descendants with stories of the Big Snow of '03.

When I was a child, it seemed that big snows were a frequent occurrence.

Of course, being 3 feet tall does alter one's perspective; however, later on there were some legitimately memorable storms. The worst I can recall came on Thanksgiving in 1950. We lived on a dirt road at the foot of a hill; at the top of the hill, about half a mile away, the road ran through a cut in the ridge, some 15 feet deep. When the storm was over, the snow on open ground was about 3 feet deep, but the cut at the top of the hill was drifted full... 15 feet of snow in it, and another 3 feet on top of that, for good measure.

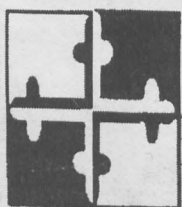
All of the men and kids, and several of the women, from the half-dozen families who lived along the road had to clear the snow by hand. No one had a tractor; the available cars and pickup trucks were useless. There was one team of horses, which pulled a makeshift snowplow after an initial path was broken. It took us three days to get through to the hard road. In the meanwhile, everyone shared canned and frozen food, milk and eggs, but the supply of feed for chickens and pigs was exhausted. In one sense, it was the kind of "good old days" that one is glad to be rid of; but in another way, it was an example of a kind of neighborly caring and independence that is rarely seen any more.

Ecologically, the deep snows that come every decade or so can be limiting factors, as described in this column last month. The most extreme example I have seen occurred either in 1958 or '59 (I no longer remember exactly) on a small island in Chesapeake Bay. In the 1920s someone had released about a dozen Japanese Sitka deer on the island, where they reproduced with abandon. A few escaped by going over the ice in hard winters (incidentally, they were the progenitors of the Sitka deer now found all over the Eastern Shore), but most were unable to get off the island. The population grew, and ate all of the available food; and in the big snowstorm of the late '50's, large numbers

of them starved. Biologists from the Solomons Island Biological Lab picked up over 150 skulls from the island the following spring.

That summer, when I was working at the lab as a research assistant, they wanted to know how many deer were left, so a population survey was organized. Everyone at the lab — researchers, maintenance personnel, students, secretaries, janitors, even the cook — piled into boats and off we went. We lined up at the south end of the island — it was about a half-mile wide — and started walking north, driving deer ahead of us as we went. The plan was that as we neared the north end of the island, the deer would have nowhere to go, so they would turn and run through the advancing line of people; and each of us in the line would count the deer that passed between him and the person to his right. As it turned out in reality, the deer were small and hard to see as they scurried through the underbrush; and when they finally panicked and turned, an absolute melee ensued. They not only ran between us; some jumped straight over our heads, and a few people were run over. It was an unforgettable experience, and the results were an educated guess rather than an exact population count. We figured there were at least 87 deer left on the island; thus the winter's snow had killed about two-thirds of the population.

It has been a memorably hard winter. About the only ones enjoying it are the field mice, which are tunneling about under the snow, feeding freely without having to worry about predators, and probably even continuing to breed. Those who have to be out in it — deer, foxes, rabbits and the like — will find it to be a limiting factor indeed. Food will be at subsistence level at best; only the strongest will survive. Nature works that way. Meanwhile, I'll be looking for volunteers to organize a population survey next spring.



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

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The Emmitsburg Dispatch announces its First

Short Story Contest

In July this year The Emmitsburg Dispatch looks forward to publishing a story written by one of you. It will be the winner of our First Short Story Contest and earn the writer a prize of \$100. Other good stories submitted may be published in future issues. Unpublished writers may find this an opportunity to see their work in print. All writers were, at one time, unpublished. Many had little formal education. Many won prizes with their first books and stories.

We're looking for non-experimental short stories with all 3 components: an interesting plot, characters, and atmosphere.

Plot, ideally, is a sequence of related actions in which a main character strives for/against something; is helped or hindered by events, people, nature; and finally wins or loses.

Character(s) are persons, or human-like, whose actions make up the main part of the plot. They show who they are by what they do and say, by the things they have around them, and by the responses and words of other characters. **Atmosphere**, consists of the circumstances of time and place in which plot events occur. It includes the things and places the character chooses or that affect him/her, and the world in which the characters act. The atmosphere reveals and influences the characters and the plot events. Details can be presented by short narratives or descriptions, sometimes as short as one word.

Tip. Adopt a *point of view* and stick to it. "Point of view" means the *implied* author of the story. Writers can make believe that: they are the main character ("I found the strange box..."), or one of the other characters in the story ("This is how a small box changed my brother's life..."), or another character not in the main story but contributing to it ("This reporter now concludes this long tale about how a small box changed 2 farmers"), or an observer outside the story ("The farmer tripped on something that should not be in a ploughed field").

Requirements

Who may submit stories: The contest is open to all readers of The Emmitsburg Dispatch whether printed or online, but see additional requirements, below, for non-subscribers. Persons of any age, profession, trade, are invited to submit standard short stories with the 3 elements noted above. Unpublished writers may find this an opportunity to see their work in print. All writers were, at one time,

unpublished. Many won prizes with their first books and stories.

What to submit: an original work of English prose fiction on any subject, written by the person who submits it.

Deadline: Stories received after June 10, 2003, will not be considered.

Word limit: For this contest The Emmitsburg Dispatch will not use stories longer than 1,200 words.

How to submit: Stories may be submitted via email to editor@emmitsburgdispatch.com. If they are typewritten send them by a postal service, addressed to: Story Contest, The Emmitsburg Dispatch, P.O. Box 358, Emmitsburg, MD, 21721. If you send a story by post, send a self-addressed stamped envelope. Submissions will not be acknowledged but typewritten stories will be returned after the end of the contest, if the envelope is large enough and has sufficient postage.

The writer should provide in a separate email, or, if on paper, on a separate page, his/her full name, current address and telephone number, the title of the story, and the date it was mailed. No story will be read if not accompanied by this information. The page number and title should appear at the upper right of each page. The identity of the writer must be omitted from the story pages.

Standards for judging. A professional critic of literature will be the final judge the stories; name to be announced in the July issue. The literary quality of the stories, and their themes, will be the primary criteria for judging them, with this exception: Obscene or vulgar language, even if required by the plot or character, will void the story for our contest.

Also, every good story expresses the author's theme or point. No story conveying an author's opposition to principles generally valued by Americans will win the prize or be published. A story is not an essay or a letter to the editor.

Publication. The winning story will be published in the July 2003 issue of The Emmitsburg Dispatch.

Prize: The Emmitsburg Dispatch will present \$100 to the winner during that month. Stories that are published in subsequent issues will receive a nominal fee.

Note. At present we do not read or publish unsolicited poetry.

Additional requirements for readers who do not subscribe to The Emmitsburg Dispatch: 1. Stories must be submitted via email. 2. For each story submitted a writer must send a check for \$5, non-refundable, made out to The Emmitsburg Dispatch.

You do the math Coach Phelan, surrogate parent for how many? How long?

By A.J. Russo

Special to The Emmitsburg Dispatch

You do the math. Student/athletes who have played college basketball under Coach Phelan at Mount St. Mary's College spent 4 hours (give or take) per day, for 4 to 5 months of each school year, for 4 years (most started as freshman). That's — a lot of hours, more than professors spent with these players, maybe more than their parents spent with them.

No one else at the College had more of an opportunity to influence these young men than Jim Phelan. For the Coach, this became a responsibility that he took very seriously. Of course, many other coaches do the same, but Coach Phelan did it more than anyone else (5 decades — still can't comprehend that) and better than most, transforming kids into young men.

Coach recruited from the streets (Fred Carter, from the streets of Philadelphia, to the Mount, to the NBA, NBA coach, then ESPN analyst — is a good example), the city, suburbs, farm — didn't matter, as long as the student had potential as a player and a person. But he didn't bring the athlete to the Mount, drop him off and leave him until mid-October when practice was about to start, and didn't say goodbye at the end of the season, disappear to the golf courses, as so

many coaches do. He invited him to his home, fed him, counseled him, made sure — I say, made sure — that he went to class, and behaved and respected others off the court. And when he didn't do as Coach asked, he knew — I say, he knew — Coach was dissatisfied, and generally turned things around and did as Coach asked. If not, there were consequences.

Let's face it, he was a good parent to most of his players, a parent away from home, and to some — the parent. He helped teach them how to be responsible to themselves and to others, how to work hard to achieve common goals, how to be caring, the importance of honesty and integrity. So, when he speaks of his young men, his kids, he means it. When his players say he turned them into men, they mean it.

In this way Coach Phelan made his greatest mark. Sure, he won a gazillion games, national championship, took the Mount to the Dance, but these accomplishments pale in comparison to his caring work off the court. He has been a surrogate parent to so many young men and a role model for other coaches and teachers. I know he is a role model to me and I thank him.

— A. J. Russo, Ph.D., is a professor in the science department, and former lacrosse coach, at Mount Saint Mary's College. His opinions do not necessarily reflect those of the Mount.

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EDUCATION

Mount Saint Mary's News

By S.L. Day
Staff writer

Hate vandalism on campus

One Mount student has admitted to being "partially" involved in a racially charged case of vandalism at the college recently, but 3 other cases of hate vandalism remain unsolved.

The vandalism appeared within a 4-day period last month at dormitories at Mount St. Mary's, prompting shocked and concerned reactions by students and faculty. Each case was directed toward a different group—one toward blacks, another toward Jews and a third toward homosexuals.

President George Houston alerted the campus on Feb. 6 through a campus-wide email regarding the first incident, involving a defaced Black History Month bulletin board on the first floor of Sheridan Hall. Houston described the vandalism like this: "Two paper figures, one representing a black male and another black female, were defaced. The head of the female figure was removed and a tree was drawn next to the male figure with a hangman's noose drawn around the figure's neck."

Michael Zoll, dean of student development, emailed the Mount community 2 days later regarding 2 more incidents of graffiti targeted at Jews and homosexuals. Vandalism directed toward homosexuals occurred on the second floor of Brute Hall while anti-Semitic vandalism was found on the first floor of Sheridan Hall.

The Mount's Department of Public Safety, Frederick County Sheriff's Office and Frederick County State's Attorney's Office are working together to find the remaining perpetrators, and criminal charges are being considered.

Many students and faculty have been vocal about their disdain for the acts, and a bulletin board soliciting pledges against intolerance and dis-

crimination has gained scores of signatures in the campus dining facility, Patriot Hall.

The Student Government Association and Office of Campus Life sponsored a forum on Feb. 13 in Laughlin Auditorium, where many students and faculty gathered to discuss the graffiti.

Houston also expressed his displeasure with the vandalism in his email, "this was an inappropriate and insensitive act that stands in stark contrast to the mission of this College.

"Acts of hatred and intolerance have no place here."

Tom Kiniry, director of public safety at the college, said in an email to students that the Office of Campus Life has organized hall meetings in the dormitories where the vandalism took place, and are asking for anyone with knowledge regarding the case to come forward.

No decision has been made yet regarding the punishment of the offender who confessed.

Students, seminarians and faculty members protested abortion at the March for Life, held on Jan. 22, in Washington, D.C. The March for Life is an anti-abortion demonstration stressing an unborn child's right to life. The annual protest coincided with the 30th anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court's Roe v. Wade decision, which legalized abortion in the U.S.

Fr. Ray Harris, campus chaplain at the Mount, said in a campus-wide email that "a human being does not lose its inherent worth and dignity just because she or he is being formed in the womb." He continued by reiterating the Catholic Church's opposition to abortion, and called on members of the Mount community to join him in protesting the Supreme Court's decision.

Several thousand people participated in the march, and thousands of

others held other demonstrations nationwide. Hundreds of pro-choice supporters also held counter-rallies across the nation.

Man arrested for trespassing

A Gettysburg man, who had allegedly been stalking a female sophomore at the Mount, was arrested for trespassing on Jan. 24, just days after being ordered to stay off the campus.

The victim reported that the perpetrator had been harassing and stalking her since late last year. In response, Tom Kiniry, director of public safety at the Mount, issued a Persona Non Grata form, which clarified that the man was no longer permitted on Mount property.

Upon the man's return to campus on Jan. 24, the female victim's friend phoned public safety officers, who responded and apprehended the trespasser and his male companion in Bradley Hall. Deputies from the Frederick County Sheriff's Office arrested the two.

As an added safety precaution, a public safety officer now patrols the

dormitory at night.

Amnesty International starts new chapter

A new chapter of Amnesty International was recently started at the Mount, adding to the growing anti-war movement in the area, across the country and around the world.

The organization, which emphasizes human rights and peace, opened its new chapter at the Mount in January. After being organized and setting up plans, the chapter held a week-long hunger awareness program last month as a means to show students how the Iraqi people and other underprivileged people around the world survive.

The new chapter also hopes to make Mount students more aware of global issues, and to help foster a dialogue between those for and against a possible war with Iraq. Group members are also selling or distributing brochures and other reading materials.

Dr. Kristen Urban, of the Mount's political science department, is the faculty adviser for the new club.

Web for students

Two sites for math homework are reviewed, but one is better

By Nicole Georgoff
Staff writer

When you're stuck on math homework that's due the next day and your parents can't help you, where do you go? Well, I've found 2 sites that might help: www.sosmath.com and <http://mathworld.wolfram.com/>. But which one is more helpful?

SOS Math's homepage is pretty basic. It's got a search box and has several different levels of math to choose from such as algebra, trigonometry, calculus, differential equations, complex variables, matrix algebra, and tables. As the homepage advertises, there are over 2,500 pages of short explanations for just about anything you could imagine. The section of the site called "CyberExams" helps you prepare for tests, while you can ask a specific question on the CyberBoard. It's got a lot of information that is really helpful.

Math World is a site filled with a lot

less help and a lot more information to help you understand the subject itself. If you don't know exactly what you're looking for, it might be hard to find. Some topics have only definitions whereas others list long drawn-out formulas. Overall, it's not the ideal place to look at how to work problems with real numbers.

In comparison SOS Math seems to be the much easier tool to use. It provides a step-by-step look at many different levels of math and the topics that are included in each level. It provides examples, and while it may seem loquacious at times, it's much easier to understand.

If you need quick answers, thorough but short explanations, and real problems check out www.sosmath.com

Students: If you have found a site helpful to you, please send the web address in an email to Nicole and she'll check it out for us. Send it to: editor@emmitsburgdispatch.com

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Area schools start projects in environmental & earth science

By Susan Allen
Staff Writer

The Catoctin "feeder area" schools, which include Emmitsburg Elementary, Thurmont Middle, and Catoctin High, have begun special projects in earth and environmental science. School officials expect these long-term programs will enrich existing courses and class work, enhance service-learning opportunities for high school students, and add to the quality of life in northern Frederick County.

At **Emmitsburg Elementary School** the open space in front of the building is being gradually transformed into an outdoor classroom. A broad band of warm-season grasses has already been planted. It will take 2 to 3 years for the grasses and wildflowers to fully develop. The plans call for a handicapped-accessible walkway and bridge, a geology study area, and 3 wetlands areas. Eventually a butterfly garden may be added.

There are currently 2 picnic tables on the grounds. Tables and benches will be added to give students more workspace. Principal Wanda Severance stated that the outdoor classroom will be "instructional, nice-looking, and maintenance-free." It will directly benefit third-grade students in their study of habitats, and fifth-graders' exploration of geology. Other students, even at kindergarten level, will access the classroom for nature study. It will also add to the park space within the town limits.

Terry Welsh, a soil conservation technician with the U. S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service, helped create the design.

Catoctin High School has established an environmental and earth science academy. Led by science team leader April Wells, this unique program is built upon existing courses in biology, environmental science, and agriculture.

During this first year, 2 special activities are underway. In the environmental science lab students are assisting in the raising (for eventual release) of baby horseshoe crabs. These unusual creatures are native to

the Chesapeake Bay. Ms. Wells is also leading a group service-learning project: 10-15 students are meeting regularly to create a schoolyard habitat which they will construct on school grounds. They will choose the species and materials which will comprise the habitat garden, and devise ways to obtain them. They will also participate in a grant-writing effort to finance the work.

Other Catoctin staffers, especially counselor Dave Snyder, are working with community and government agencies to place interested juniors and seniors in work-study or volunteer assignments. ThorpeWood environmental center is participating in this effort. Ms. Wells hopes to make arrangement with the state and national parks for future internships.

Thurmont Middle School (TMS) was selected as a Maryland "green school" in 1999. Green schools are honored with this title because they "demonstrate an ability to teach environmental issues across the curriculum, practice what they teach, and extend learning into the community," according to press releases.

Sixth-graders at TMS participate in "outdoor school," a program which was established in Frederick County in 1958. Formerly a week-long study at Camp Greentop, it is now conducted through several field trips.

The seventh-grade science curriculum centers on a detailed examination of the Chesapeake Bay and its watershed. Before the recent building addition and renovation at TMS, a school-wide environmental fair was held in the spring. Science faculty are considering new activities which will begin next year.

About this project. According to Mrs. Severance, planning for this project began in February 2000. At that time, Mt. St. Mary's professor Myra Derbyshire brought a group of her students to do a study of Willow Rill, the stream which runs through the open space. Dr. Derbyshire is also a member of the Emmitsburg School Improvement Team (SIT). The team discussed development of the school ground and stream as a hands-on learning center for the elementary



Outdoor classroom. Warm season grasses poke through the snow in the space planned as an outdoor classroom at the Emmitsburg Elementary School. The grasses must be allowed to die back naturally for 2-3 years in order to become fully established. See article.

school students and college-student mentors.

Because there is no money available from the county to support new programs, the Emmitsburg Elementary staff must raise funds themselves. With the assistance of local master gardener, Audrey Hillman, the school applied to the Soil Conservation District authorities for a

grant to design an outdoor classroom area. Their plan fit with the district's shallow-water management goals; it keeps the land and stream environmentally sound, while providing new learning activities for students. The school received \$1,500 toward the project. More funds will be needed to complete the project over the next couple of years.

March at the Library

Regular Storytimes

Babies with Books (birth-24 months with an adult) Every 4th Tuesday, March 25 at 10:30 a.m.

Two Terrific! (age 2 with an adult) Tuesday, March 18 at 10:30 a.m.

Preschool Storytime (ages 3-5 with an adult) Wednesdays at 7 p.m. and

Thursdays at 10:30 a.m.

Special programs

An Evening of Traditional Irish Music (all ages) "Pete and Barley" will share the magic of the Celts at Mount St. Mary's College. Thursday, March 20, at 7:30 p.m.*

Third Thursdays at Thorpe Wood (ages 3-5) Thurmont and Emmitsburg Branch Libraries host a monthly pre-

school story program at beautiful Thorpe Wood Nature Retreat. For directions call the Thurmont Branch or visit the Thorpe Wood website at www.thorpewood.org. Thursday, March 20 at 1 p.m.*

The Mad Hatters Tea party (preschool with and adult) Presented by the Playtime Theatre. Join Alice, the White Rabbit, and the Mad Hatter. Wednesday, March 19 at 7 p.m.*

Programs are held at the Emmitsburg Library at 101 Silo Hill Road unless designated by an asterisk. Those programs will be held at Trinity United Methodist Church, 313 W. Main Street (or other noted locations). For registration or information call 301-447-2682.



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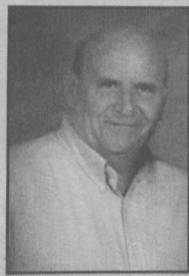
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*View on Far East***Flight over North Korea:
fantasy to stark reality**

On a fantasy flight from Tokyo to P'yongyang, North Korea, the airplane slipped into the night sky just after midnight. As the sun opened its eyes for the day on the western edge of the Sea of Japan, we were approaching the North Korean seashore just south of Hungnam. At 30,000 feet, the eastern shoreline of the peninsula is a perfect picture. The sea gives way to a narrow and gentle sloping plateau and then rises sharply to mountains that appear to be 7,000-8,000 feet high, fully dressed in green with hardwood and conifers.

The mountains are extremely rugged with very sharp faces and narrow valleys. There are no signs of life. As we proceed southwest toward P'yongyang, the mountains give way to hills with wider valleys strewn with layer upon layer of rice paddies. Barely past 6:30 a.m., the paddies are full of farmers hand-tilling rice in the same manner that has persisted for thousands of years. Something strange emerges, the realization that I have seen a number of roads in this area, but not a single one paved.

As the plane begins its descent, the beauty that I have observed begins a gentle transition to the stark

reality that is North Korea today. As we approach 10,000 feet I see the traffic on the roads, by 5,000 feet I see convoys, and by 2,000 feet I realize the convoys are soldiers moving in and around the capital.

I now awaken to realize that my fantasy flight is over, and I begin to see the dark side of North Korea. This small country, not as large as the state of Mississippi, boasts a million-man army out of a total population of around 22 million. According to online CIA fact books, North Korea's military budget consumes almost one-third of the national gross domestic product. With a dictatorial leadership much akin to the tight-grip style of Saddam Hussein, a strong and loyal military is required to maintain total dominance over the citizenry. Dictatorial survival comes first and the citizenry second.

With such a large military budget drain on its total resources, North Korea continues to decline in overall economic growth. A majority of North Korean citizens, including adults, suffer from some degree of malnutrition. The U.S. has been a major contributor of food aid to North Korea through the World Food Program, having contributed over half a billion dollars in food for

North Korea's starving children in the past 8-10 years.

The recent announcement by North Korea that it is pursuing a nuclear weapons program is an affront to world support in North Korea's times of need. This is especially a slap in the face to the U.S. with this threat coming at a time when the U.S. is totally absorbed with disarming Iraq.

The tough decision now for the U.S. is to determine the intentions behind the threat. Is North Korea actually willing to deliver a nuclear weapon on U.S. troops in South Korea or on the Japanese people, or is the threat a ploy designed to force the U.S. and other major countries into helping North Korea out of its economic abyss? In either case, one must accept the fact that nuclear blackmail is no longer a theory; it is now a proven practice. How we react to this blackmail attempt will have a huge impact on whether or not we will have to face this type of threat over and over again in the future. I hope we do it right the first time around.

— Larry Brogan
Gettysburg

Editor's note: Col. Larry Brogan, a former military intelligence officer, graduated from Mt. St. Mary's College. He holds the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star, and several other honors for service in Korea, Thailand, Vietnam and Germany.

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We shot starlings, then poisoned the insects they didn't eat

By Jack Deatherage
Dispatch writer

"Junior," Dad growled early on a Saturday morning in May of '75. "You and Mike get your guns and kill those starlings." He turned away from the kitchen window that overlooked the garden he had rototilled the day before. "I just watched them cut off a tomato. I didn't buy tomatoes for the birds."

Beyond snipping off Dad's tomato plants the birds nested in the brick house's chimneys. Sometimes the noises baby starlings made were enough to drive us from a room. There were blocked off fireplaces in several rooms of the old house that acted as sound boxes for the chirping, cackling, squawking birds.

Over the years some of our friends started showing up during "starling month" with their shotguns. The weekends often sounded like a war zone as starlings toppled from trees or fell from the sky. I recall keeping totals of the number of starlings dropped on any one day. Twenty-two birds was the record.

If no starlings presented themselves we took our guns to the field below the Middle Creek Bridge and waited for someone to scare the pigeons out from under it. Pigeons were a good deal harder to shoot. They soon figured out what we were up too and began changing the way they flew out from under the bridge. Some went up stream, some down. Some flew out and up over the road. One would fly out, guns would fire. Then 10 would come all at once as we reloaded!

The pigeons I ate. The starlings were tossed into the field behind the house.

Living in town now I can't shoot starlings. And now I know we shouldn't have been shooting them at the old house either. Their habit of snipping tomatoes off could have been dealt with in simpler and much cheaper ways than shotgunning them! (The shells cost more than the tomatoes did.) But more importantly I've read in some gardening book that starlings are insectivores. Once the tomatoes reached a certain size the birds

would have left them alone and concentrated on the bugs we used poisons to control.

Ecology was a word seldom heard in our house.

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HEALTH

A word from the doctor

About osteopathic medicine

We are wonderfully made: skin and bone, muscle and blood, nerves and chemicals (including the famous hormones and pheromones). There is more. There is a part of us that is beyond these tangibles yet directly united. Soul, self, personality, spirituality, emotions, intelligence are beyond our comprehension, yet influenced profoundly by the physical and non-physical. Beyond all of these is the physical and social environment of each person's existence and life. The complexity of each human person has led to an amazing array of services working toward health and wholeness.

History. Osteopathic Medicine was founded by Andrew Taylor Still, a Civil War physician and surgeon. At that time chemical medicine included arsenic and mercury. Folks died from the treatment as much as the disease. Limitations of chemical and surgical medicine of that time troubled Andrew. After the Civil War he returned home

and became part of his local medical community. He left chemical medicine to focus only on mechanical medicine.

Dr. Still experimented with mechanical adjustments called manipulations to restore or enhance structure of dysfunctional bodies. The successes became the techniques taught as Osteopathic Medicine. In 1892 Dr Still and his sons opened the first school of Osteopathic Medicine in Kansas City, MO. The degree given was Diplomat in Osteopathy: D.O.

Concepts. Still's understanding of why osteopathic techniques work included the following concepts: (1) The brain is the biggest, most efficient pharmaceutical company ever. (2) The body and the brain are in constant communication. (3) Loss of health occurs when the body and the brain are not able to communicate with each other. (4) Arteries carry the fluids needed for the communication, nutrition and restoration of health. When blood flow

is compromised because of loss of structure, the body will lose function. (5) The physical structure of the body greatly influences the flow of blood through the arteries. Muscle, bone, soft tissue abnormalities, fractures, tears, sprains, spasms all block the flow of blood, lymph fluids, brain and spinal fluids to the involved area to the body and interrupts communication between brain and body. Chronic pain after injury can come as a result of brain-body miscommunication.

Today osteopathic medicine incorporates chemical, surgical and manipulative medicine. Osteopathy is rather eclectic, emphasizing nutrition and structure-function. It borrows from many schools of medical thought to approach wellness. Osteopathy is a strongly patient-centered form of medicine.

Client in charge. Keeping the client, who is seeking our advice, in charge of his or her own health is a major goal of osteopathic medicine. Pathway options to improved health are discussed in depth. The client will choose a path acceptable to him or her. All types of medicine are included in the discussion, even though it may not be a treatment directly provided by osteopathy. Studies show that if a person accepts and commits to a health regimen, truly believing and giving the body permission to heal, then a measurable 35 percent additional healing takes place. Once a treatment regimen is chosen, therapies are established.

A chosen medical regimen may include manipulative therapies, chemical therapies, surgery, alternative medicine or avoiding certain chronic insults to the body and soul. All is documented. It is the client's responsibility to follow through on the regimens and give good feedback on their effectiveness, and consult us again if the regimen jointly chosen is not working for the client or needs adjusting.

Equally certified. Both MD and DO physicians are Board Certified in their fields and subspecialties. Osteopathic subspecialists are in every field of medicine. Many allopathic physicians (MDs) practice manipulative therapies. It is the flavor and emphasis that identify the osteopathic physician.

Osteopathic colleges have prided themselves on their success in providing physicians to rural and depressed areas in the United States. Some of this success flows from the recruitment of many students who are older with prior career paths. In my class, along with the more traditional medical students, we had members who were nurses, pharmacists, physician assistants, teachers, and one previous coal miner. I was very grateful for this policy, as I was 43 when I began my training. Today there are 19 Osteopathic medical schools. These medical schools provide 5 percent of the physicians in the United States.

— Bonita J. Portier, D.O.
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Take Note

Free mammograms but few women ask for them

Underprivileged women can get a free mammogram, but few are asking for it, according to the donor, possibly because many lack access to a computer. A web site is donating at least one free mammogram daily. Women need to get to a computer, access the internet, enter the address, <http://www.thebreastcancersite.com>, and click "donating a mammogram" which appears as a pink window in the

middle of the screen.

It takes less than a minute and costs nothing. The web site's sponsors use the number of daily visits to donate mammograms in exchange for advertising.

Emmitsburg area women who need help accessing the internet may call the Seton Center 301-447-6102; ask for Outreach, or the UpCounty Center 301-447-2810 extension 309.

Mission Of Mercy Free Medical Care

The Mission of Mercy provides free medical care and some medications to anyone who is poor, homeless, uninsured or under-insured. Patients can make an appointment to see a medical doctor by calling a number below:

Taneytown

Thursday, March 6 and 20,
8:30 a.m.-12 noon

Where: St. Joseph Catholic Church, 44 Frederick St.

Appointment: (410) 857-2999

Thurmont

Thursday, March 6 and 20, 1-4 p.m.

Where: Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic Church Parish Hall, 103 N. Church St.

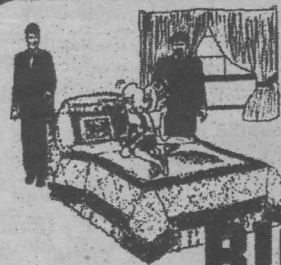
Appointment: (301) 694-3733

Gettysburg

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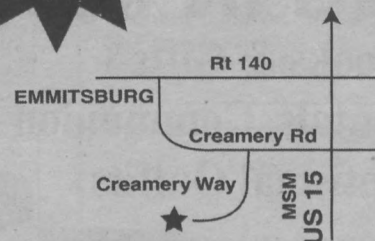
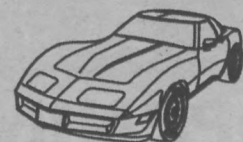


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MONDAY - FRIDAY 8:00 A.M. - 5 P.M.
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Quilters



Mourning quilts a continuing family record

(continued from last month)

By Mary Ellen Cummings
Dispatch writer

Baltimore Album quilts. In *For Purpose and Pleasure* author Sandi Fox tells about a Quaker quilter, Mary P Allen, who made a Baltimore Album quilt in typical reds, greens and yellow. What made it different from other Baltimore Albums was the symbols she added. In addition to the usual flowers, vines and wreaths she added emblems representing death — for example a funerary urn, doves, and pineapples.

Quilts sewn during mourning. Probably the most prevalent mourning quilts were made during the extended period of seclusion of women during the nineteenth century. They must go into deep mourning for as long as 6 months for a child or sibling and 2-year total mourning for a husband. During this time she would sew and quilt a cover often using pieces cut from the deceased's clothing — even from the burial clothes. In some communities the woman of the house and friends and relative would come to the home upon learning of the death of a husband and make a quilt from scratch before the funeral. The body would be covered with this quilt for viewing and sometimes buried with it.

Quilts covered caskets. With the advent of caskets instead of plain pine coffins, the use of quilts in the funeral became less frequent. However, quilts were sometimes used to cover the casket before the use of floral blankets

became popular. Some lodges had their own quilts that were used at the death of a member. They would have emblems of the lodge worked into a pattern on the quilt. These were only used in the event that the lodge held the funeral services or for an extremely important lodge member. I found one mention of a church in Ohio that had a special quilt they used to cover the casket during a service. It probably had been made by the Ladies Aid Society of the church. No denomination of church was given.

Quilts honored persons lost in war. There are many references to quilts made after death(s), for example the 9/11 quilts. After the Civil War it was learned that many women made quilts to honor men and boys lost in the war. The same was true of both the World War 1 and World War 2. However, these were memory or memorial quilts and album quilts. They were not used during any death related services. Mourning quilts possess a therapeutic value unequalled by other quilts. In a book "Quilts in Community" by Clark, Knepper and Ronsheim the authors have probably said it best. "We have learned that for quilt makers the creation of mourning quilts is one way of coping with their loss. The process of making a mourning quilt deeply involves the quilt maker in a continuing relationship with the deceased.

Next time: The Hatfields and the McCoy's

PEOPLE TO PEOPLE

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



Mrs. Agnes Ann Wivell Topper was 90 years old on October 10, 2002. She celebrated her birthday on October 13, 2002 at Mountain Gate Restaurant with many members of her family and friends.

All in the Family

By Marion Lee

The mark of any good community is how its people treat one another. Here in Emmitsburg, there is a great deal of caring and sharing. A good example of such caring can be found at St. Catherine's Nursing Home. The staff there is comprised of people who are cheerful, loving, compassionate and genuinely concerned for those in their care. St. Catherine's Nursing Home truly exudes a family atmosphere and Fred Wolfe has become a cherished member of that family.

Fred is a familiar face at St. Catherine's. A dear friend to residents and staff alike, his association with St. Catherine's came about while his lovely wife, Marguerite, lived there. Every day, Fred faithfully came to care for Marguerite and, before long, he began to pitch in and help out with serving meal trays, ushering residents back and forth

Births

Congratulations new parents:
Mr. and Mrs. James (Tiffany R. Stahley) Click of Emmitsburg — a son — March 14, 2003.

Mr. and Mrs. Steven (Sherry L. Deagostino) Wickenheiser of Emmitsburg — a son — March 6, 2003.

Jodi and Brian Clark of Emmitsburg — a son — Feb. 22, 2003.

David and Debby Maze of Emmitsburg — twins — Dec. 30, 2003.

Ava Elisabeth Maze - 5 lbs. 11 oz.
Joshua David Maze - 5 lbs. 9 oz.

to activities, and cheerfully fulfilling errands for the staff.

Last year, Fred lost his beloved Marguerite. They had been married since 1943. Marguerite Peters was a native of Emmitsburg and after Fred returned from World War II, they settled here. As a matter of fact, they bought a charming little house right across the street from St. Catherine's Nursing Home. Of course, at that time, there was no St. Catherine's.

With the passing of Marguerite, Fred still manages to keep himself busy. He can be seen every day at St. Catherine's, helping in a variety of ways. He has become a much loved team member, always available to do whatever he can to make life easier for the residents. When asked how he feels about St. Catherine's, Fred beams: "It's home to me—the people here are grand!" And the people at St. Catherine's share the sentiment. Community spirit is alive and well in Emmitsburg and demonstrated beautifully by Fred Wolfe. He is living proof that you're never too old to contribute, to be a vital participant in life. At 92, Fred plans to volunteer at St. Catherine's for as long as he is able.



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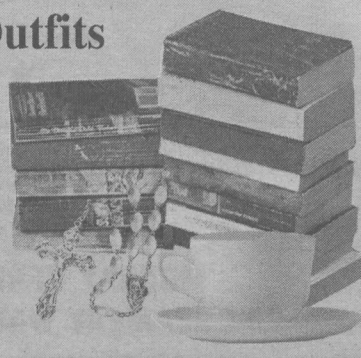
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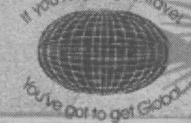
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Looking Ahead

March 22, 23. Orienteering (Map and Compass Reading) classes consist of an indoor slide program that introduces maps and their components as well as the orienteering compass that allows the user to determine the direction of travel. Afterwards participants are given the opportunity to complete a short outdoor course. The outdoor course requires going off-trail in varied terrain so wear sturdy shoes and dress for the weather. Maps and compasses are provided for the day. The program starts at the Catoctin Mountain Visitor Center at 1:30 p.m., and is free but class size is limited so reservations are required: 301-663-9388.

March 20. An Evening of Traditional Irish Music. "Pete and Barley" will share the magic of the Celts at 7:30 p.m. in the Hospitality Room of the Knott Athletic Complex at Mount St. Mary's College. Information: 301-447-2682.

March 21. Dinner Auction at the Carriage House Inn. The 15th Anniversary Celebration Gala to benefit community projects of Up-County Family Center and Catholic Charities. Social hour - Cash Bar begin at 6:30 p.m. and Dinner at 7:30 p.m. \$50 per person. \$400 per table (8 guests). Information and Reservations: 301-447-2810.

March 22. Health Fair. The 20th annual Emmitsburg Lions Club health fair will be held from 7:30 - 11 a.m. at the Mother Seton Elementary School in Emmitsburg. The fair offers several screening tests and services, many recommended to be done annually. For the multiphasic blood screening service, which costs \$27, participants should fast for 10-12 hours. The program is being offered to health fair participants for \$27. The Lions Club will also offer free screenings: blood pressures, vision, glaucoma, hearing, height and weight measurement, oxygen saturation, foot exam, oral cancer screening, massage therapy, grip strength test and general health and health care information. Information, Joe Ritz: 301-619-4978.

March 27-30, April 3-5. Schoolhouse Rock Live! A musical at Mount St. Mary's adapted from the ABC cartoons of the 1970's and revived in the 1990's-, it features songs like "Conjunction Junction," "I'm Just A Bill," and "Interjections!" The show teaches lessons in grammar, history, science — even the multiplication tables — with humor and energy! A show for the young and the young-at-heart. Curtain: March 27-29, 8 p.m. March 30, 2 p.m., April 3-5, 8 p.m. \$5 Reservations: 301-447-5308 x4723

March 29. Turkey and Oyster Supper at Tom's Creek United Methodist Church on Tom's Creek Church Road off Route 140 between Taneytown and Emmitsburg. From 12 noon until ??? Adults: \$10. Ages 5-10: \$5 Carryouts: \$11. Bake Table available.

March 30. Basket and Bears Bingo to benefit the Emmitsburg Volunteer Ambulance Company starts at 2 p.m. (doors open at 1 p.m.); 6 cards, 24 games, featuring the large 2-piece oval waste basket with lid and hope chest. Tickets \$15 at the door. Light fare menu available. Information: 301-447-2073.

April 1-5. Bag Sale, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Seton Center Thrift Shop, 16840 S. Seton Ave., Emmitsburg. Information: 301-447-6102

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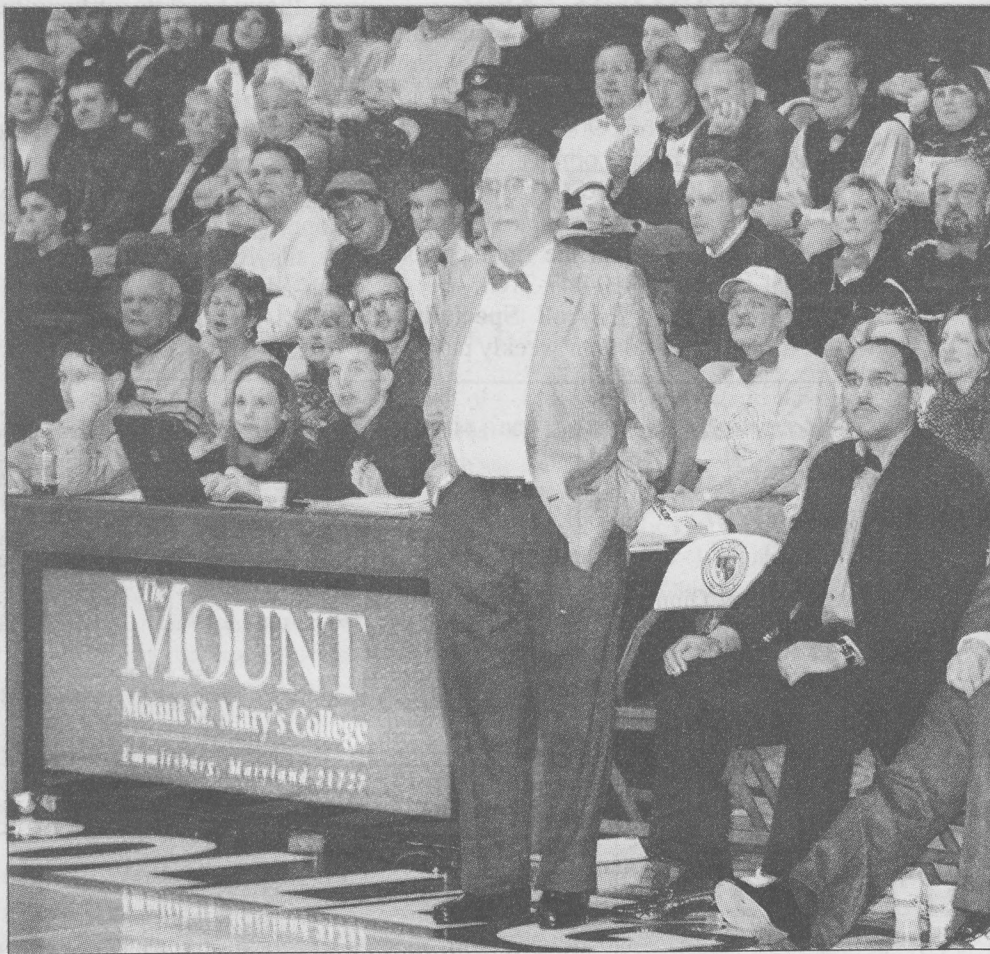
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—RAYMOND BUCHEISTER/THE EMMITSBURG DISPATCH

During his last game Coach Jim Phelan stands up at his customary post, with Assistant Coach Milan Brown at right and the fans all intently watching a play.

Profiles of Jim Phelan

As Player

High School: La Salle College High School '47 (Philadelphia, PA) Honors: All-Catholic League, 1946, 1947; All-City, 1947

College: La Salle College '51 (Philadelphia) Honors: All-Philadelphia, 1949, 1950, 1951; Honorable Mention All-America, 1951; Inducted into the La Salle Hall of Athletes in 1964; Captain on 1951 NIT Squad

Military: Quantico Marines, 1951-53 (Fought in Korean War). Honors: Marine Corps MVP, 1952; All-Armed Forces, 1952; All-Marine Corps team, 1952, 1953

Professional: Philadelphia Warriors, 1953-54 (8th pick by Philadelphia in 1951 Draft); Pottstown Packers (Eastern League), 1953-54

As Coach

Assistant Coach: La Salle College, 1953-54 Highlights: Team won NCAA Championship

Head Coach: Mount St. Mary's College, 1954-present

Highlights:

—830 wins is 1st among active college coaches, and 3rd all-time among all college coaches

—NCAA Record 1,354 games coached

—Only person to coach 49 years at one school

—49 seasons as a head coach surpasses Phog Allen's NCAA record for longevity

—Nineteen 20-win seasons is 8th among active coaches and 11th all-time; his is one more than legendary coach,

John Wooden of UCLA

—His 69-16 record (.812) in his first 3 seasons is 10th on the all-time list for Top-10 Best Career Starts

—NCAA College Division National Championship, 1962

—NCAA College Division Coach of the Year, 1962

—NCAA Division II Coach of the Year, 1981

—NCAA District 2 Coach of the Year, 1981, 1985, 1986

—Northeast Conference Coach of the Year, 1996

—Northeast Conference co-Coach of the Year, 1993

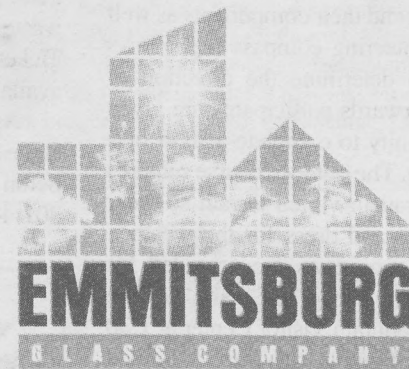
—Northeast Conference Championship, 1995, 1999

—NCAA Division I Tournament Bid, 1995, 1999

—National Invitation Tournament Bid, 1996

—Over 90 percent of his recruits have earned degrees

In Jim Phelan's honor the color and special paper for this edition have been sponsored by



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—The Clair Bee Coach of the Year, 1998 (presented By Basketball Hall of Fame)

—Note: The only collegiate coach to win over 800 games and not be in the Nasmith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame

Milestone Games:

Milestone/ Date/Opponent

Victory No. 1. Dec. 4, 1954 St. Francis (NY)

Victory No. 100. Feb. 19, 1959 Catholic

NCAA Championship. Mar. 24, 1962 Sacramento State

Victory No. 200. Feb. 28, 1964 Bridgewater

Victory No. 300. Feb. 22, 1969 Loyola

Victory No. 400. Jan. 28, 1976 George Mason

Victory No. 500. Jan. 11, 1982 St. Thomas Aquinas

Victory No. 600. Feb. 17, 1986 Pittsburgh-Johnstown

1,000th Game. Jan. 10, 1991 Wagner

Victory No. 700. Feb. 28, 1993 Wagner

1,106th game (2nd all-time). Dec. 28, 1994 Virginia Commonwealth

NEC Championship. Mar. 5, 1995 Rider

NCAA Division I Tournament. Mar. 16, 1995 Kentucky

National Invitational Tournament. Mar. 16, 1996 Illinois State

Victory No. 800/NEC Championship. Mar. 1, 1999 Central Connecticut State

NCAA Division I Tournament. Mar. 12, 1999 Michigan State

1,276th game (1st all-time). Nov. 25, 2000 Columbia

1,300th game. Feb. 24, 2001 Monmouth

1,354th and last game (830th win). Mar. 1, 2003 Central Connecticut State.

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