

**Most Anything
At A Glance**

- By Abigail -

The only good thing that came out of the past weekend was the water ban in Emmitsburg was lifted.

No, I shouldn't say that's the only good, because all residents of our area pulled together and helped one another. I saw the joining together of a lot of fragmented groups and together they put a mighty dent in the clean-up operations.

I think by now we all realize that the extensive damage that happened in Emmitt Gardens could have been almost completely averted if only the bridge would let the water through. When the water approached the holes through the bridge, it found the holes were too small to let the larger volume of water through, and so consequently the water took the sides of the creek, pushed over route 97 at the east end of town, and flooded every home in its path.

After the damage of Tropical Storm Agnes in 1972, letters were sent to the State Highway Administration, Congressmen, and Senators, and anyone else who would listen, stating our problem with the bridge.

Engineers were then sent here to see exactly what could be done about it. Well, they looked the bridge over (this was after the flood, of course,) and examined it from all sides. They then decided to drag the creek. Needless to say, that didn't solve the problem. The holes under the bridge are simply too small to accommodate a large volume of water.

Now, we have to once again get the state engineers to come to Emmitsburg, and convince them of our problem.

You know, I've been thinking about it, and I really don't know why residents of Emmitt Gardens can't get together and sue the state engineers. I've seen court cases won by private citizens on less important matters.

It isn't as if we didn't have sufficient grounds for a suit. Just look at all the damage people suffered. And whose fault is it? I would say the State Highway Administration; those who didn't allow for more flooding. Well, it's a thought, anyhow.

Even if the residents of Emmitt Gardens get Federal and state aid in the way of loans, they'll still have to go into debt for the amount of the loan. It's still money out of their pockets.

I only hope we have no rain for a while. If we do, we can once again look for more flooding in the East end of town.

Well, I'm always saying what a terrific job our fire department does, but they outdid themselves over the weekend. These men worked for over 24 hours straight. They do this without pay, and without a thought to themselves. Several men, at the risk to their own lives went into raging waters Saturday to rescue people clinging to shrubs and trees. This is dedication.

There's really no adequate way to thank these men. But still...THANK YOU and Thank You, Friends and neighbors...all who helped.

Town Damaged By Flood Waters

Flash Floods, Tornado warnings. You name it and it was forecast for Emmitsburg and Frederick County early Saturday morning.

As it turned out, the only thing missing was the tornado as Emmitsburg and surrounding area was hit with 6.07 inches of rainfall in a 24 hour period.

Residents are now busy digging out from under a disaster that some people are saying is worse than Tropical Storm Agnes which struck in 1972.

The rains, which were heavy a week ago, were compounded by rains on Friday and Saturday, and saturated the already saturated ground and swollen streams. This produced flooded crops and basements;

stranded motorists, damaged homes and businesses, felled trees, and caused heavy flood destruction that will result in considerable cost to area residents.

By early Saturday morning, Emmitsburg was virtually isolated by the rising flood waters when both Tom's Creek and Flat Run overflowed their banks.

Locally the Firemen and rescue squad was kept busy rescuing people, auto's and trucks from raging waters. The only access to U.S. Route 15 was through the old farm lane of St. Joseph's Provincial House, which made their job harder.

Three people were pulled from the waters of Tom's Creek on 806, and a

three car collision blocked traffic on Route 15 near route 97. A tractor and trailer was also pulled from Tom's Creek and Route 15.

For the Vigilant Hose Co. the trouble began with a fire Friday evening at Catoctin High School. After completing mopping up operations at the school, they were called to the Emmitsburg Community Center to release water pressure on the roof when spouting and drains were blocked. The Firemen then worked continuously for the next 24 hour period.

Residents of Emmitt Gardens once again suffered severe damage from Flat Run when the water, unable to flow through the bridge charged

across route 97 and crashed into homes. People, forced to evacuate, waded through waist high waters clutching children and pets and were moved to the safety of the fire hall to await the receding waters. Several homes suffered structural damage.

The East End Garage, Emmitsburg Feed and Farm Supply, St. Joseph's Provincial House, the post office and

Creek steadily rose as the Monocacy River pushed waters back into the swollen creek.

Lake Royer at Ft. Ritchie caused some concern when the dam showed signs of weakening. Water was diverted over the spillway and as a precautionary measure, residents of Rouzersville, Pa. were evacuated until the danger passed.

Electrical power and telephone communications were interrupted over the weekend as the general emergency situation existed in all parts of the county.

As the flood waters rose, volunteers coordinated their efforts to help rescue, pump and salvage. Citizen Band radio operators also acted as an extra set of eyes and ears. Boy and girl scouts volunteered their services to help wherever their help was needed.

But it was really the Vigilant Hose Co. who were Knights in shining armor this weekend as they rescued families, pets and belongings and moved them to drier areas, and then returned to the tedious job of pumping out basements. Right behind the firemen were the Vigilant Ladies Auxiliary, who were standing by with soup, coffee and other hot goodies. Super Thrift also supplied hot coffee and sandwiches to workers trying to dig out from under mud left behind by the receding waters.

The waters went down as fast as they rose, but area residents still watched the skies for any sign of more rain. With no sign of rain and with the help of all the volunteers, digging out from under has resumed. But there is still much heartbreak and grief around. It will be a long hard pull until everything is once again back to normal. Many people were wiped out and unless Federal and state assistance is forthcoming, it will be impossible to replace what was lost.

The Civil Defense Agency has recommended to Governor Mandel and (Continued on Page 6)



Residents of Emmitt Gardens were once again hard hit by the rising waters of Flat Run. (Photo by Mary Johnson)

Flood Photo Feature Pages 4 & 5

new elementary school, and many residences besides Emmitt Gardens all received flood damage on Saturday.

Heavy loss of farm crops in the area is also feared. Seventeen acres of corn was washed over by Tom's Creek at Four Pts. Bridge near Emmitsburg. Many roads including business route 15 and new route 15, Route 806, Route 97 East at 15 and also at Bridgeport, Harney Road, Four Points Road, Motters Station, Old Frederick Road at Loys Station, Sixes Road, route 77 at Rocky Ridge, Annandale Road, were all closed temporarily due to high water. Several small bridges in the area are also out.

Fairfield residents among the main street were forced to wait several hours before help could get through due to high water.

Residents in Thurmont along Big Hunting Creek were forced to evacuate their homes as the water rose flooding basements and parking lots.

Volunteer firemen from Taneytown were busy Friday and Saturday nights assisting neighboring Detour pump out and evacuate as Big Pipe

Mount Readies For Homecoming

Recognition of a former governor of New York State, a priest honored by the late premier of Nationalist China, and a priest with over 20 years of service to his alma mater highlight Mount Saint Mary's College Homecoming Alumni Weekend, October 14-17, 1976.

Scheduled to be presented with awards of merit this year are Governor Malcolm Wilson, the Rev. Francis X. Clougherty, and the Rev. Phillip A. Barrett.

Fr. Clougherty will be the first recipient of the Alumni Association's John Cardinal McCloskey award, named after the Mount alumnus selected as the first American-born Cardinal of the Catholic Church. The annual award is to be given to that Mountaineer priest who has distinguished himself through his service to Holy Mother, the Church, and his community.

This year's reunion classes are those ending in one and six — 1926, 1931, 1936, 1941, 1946, 1951, 1961, 1966, 1971.

The weekend's festivities begin with the Priests' registration at 5:00 p.m., Thursday, October 14. Seminary class reunions will be held in the Seminary commencing at 7:30 p.m.

Friday, October 15, opens with a Concelebrated Mass followed by the Blessing of the \$125,000 lecture hall addition to the Seminary. The annual priests' banquet will follow at 12 noon, during which time the presentation of the McCloskey Award will be made. At 7:00 p.m. alumni of the college will register while being offered a seafood smorgasboard and a 9:00 p.m. social.

Saturday, October 16, will feature on-campus meetings of the Mount Saint Mary's National Alumni Association and College Executive Committee, as well as tours of the Grotto of Lourdes and Seton Shrine (2:00 p.m.). Alumni classes will gather beginning at 3:30 p.m. The president's reception (6:30 p.m.) will preface the annual alumni dinner and presentation of the Dubois and Brute medals, given annually for distinguished service to community and fellow man. The athletic Hall of Fame awards will also be presented during the ceremonies. Following this a Homecoming Ball will be held in Memorial Gymnasium beginning at 9:00 p.m.

An 11:30 a.m. Mass and subsequent brunch on Sunday, October 17, will round out Mount Saint Mary's "Homecoming '76," an alumni to renew "Ole" memories and get in touch with "Ole" friends and acquaintances.



Artists conception of new Catoctin Medical Center, which will be located directly across the street from the present facility.

Medical Facility Drive Launched

Officials of the Catoctin Medical Center launched a \$150,000 fund raising campaign today in Thurmont. The funds will be used in constructing a new medical building and doctors' offices in Thurmont. The medical center officers and board of directors met at Royers Restaurant in Thurmont with Victor R. Jagow, chairman of the Fund Raising Committee. Jagow outlined his committee plans for this largest, single public fund raising activity ever undertaken in the northern county area.

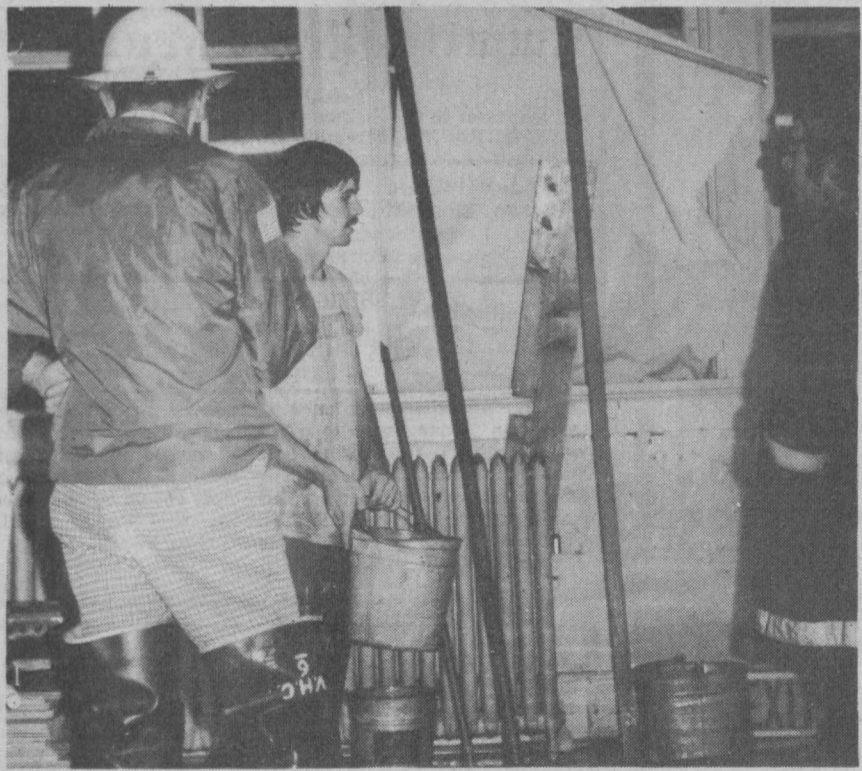
the financing for the new medical center. He made it clear that the center does not offer service in competition with other doctors already practicing in the area. "We continue to face a shortage of family medicine practitioners and one of the problems is the difficulties that prospective doctors are encountering in their attempt to locate suitably priced facilities," he said. "We need all our present physicians in the area and more, as our representative communities grow," he continued.

Assisting in the fund raising effort, which will run through January 30, 1977, are Ross V. Smith, Sr., Special Advance Gifts; Calvin E. Saylor, Industries; Joseph F. Gorman and James Mackley, General Businesses and Professions; Murray A. Miller and Earle A. Mayner, Organizations; Kenneth Fraley, Alan L. Brauer, Charles Mumma, Mrs. Lucille Reau, William E. Sanders, Jr., public subscriptions. Representatives to serve on this committee from the various area communities will be recruited in the near future.

Members of the Building Committee include H. Lloyd Hoke, Mrs. Rachel E. Robinson, Mrs. Doris Mae Lee, Dr. James K. Gray, Dr. William F. Harper, Dr. Steven A. Pickert, Dominick Massett, Mrs. Clara Mae Hoke, Charles Smith, Mrs. Betty Jean Ricker, Francis L. Seiss, and Glenn Nikirk.

The Catoctin Medical Center Board of Directors and officers consist of President Hoke, Vice President Calvin E. Saylor, Treasurer Walter W. Kirk, Jr., Secretary Dorothy B. Grossnickle, and members Kenneth Fraley, Raymond E. Creager, Ralph E. Stottlemeyer, and William Leckemyer.

Contributions to the fund are being directed to the Catoctin Medical Center, Inc. at the Thurmont Bank, Thurmont, Md. 21788.



Firemen use window blinds as makeshift drains to catch the water.

Comm. Center Suffers Damage

The Emmitsburg Community Center incurred an estimated \$4,800 in damages during the October 8 rain storm.

Flooding through the roof recently installed by Roy E. Coldsmith, Inc. of Gettysburg, Pa. was caused by "clogging of the main downspout with tar and gravel which caused the spouting to choke up with water" according to Frederick County Maintenance Supervisor Charles Elyer.

About 500 books in the 8,000 volume library were soaked. "Only by the quick action of night watchman Daniel Kaas who discovered the flooding and called the Vigilant Hose Fire Company was further damage avoided," said Kathleen Warthen, head librarian. The firemen swiftly pumped water from the third floor

and punctured the ceilings with pike poles to relieve the pressure from the water caught between ceiling and flooring. They also used the window blinds as makeshift drains to catch water pouring down the walls and divert it through the windows. This bit of ingenuity saved the building from much further damage according to Fire Chief Eugene Myers.

Fire Company salvage covers were used by Mrs. Warthen, an aide and firemen to cover the remaining books and shelves. The alarm was sounded at 10:30 p.m. and the mop up operations on all three floors of the building lasted until 1:30 a.m.

The Health Clinic and Dynamics rooms were flooded during the September 30 rain storm while the roof was being repaired.



Charles Elyer holds a piece of tar which blocked the drains at the Community Center, causing damage.



Damp library books are spread on the floor to dry.

(Photo by Mary Johnson)



Area Scouts Help With Clean-up

Boy Scouts from Troop 284, Girl Scouts from Troop 35, plus other neighborhood youths assembled in Emmitt Gardens last Sunday, October 10, to assist homeowners in the clean-up operations following Saturday's torrential downpour. The youngsters spent nearly five hours carrying furniture, rolling carpets, and assisting in general mopping details.

Mr. Robert Smith, manager of the Emmitsburg SuperThrift, provided drinks and sandwiches for the entire working crew that participated in the Sunday project.

Boy Scouts leading a hand were: Joseph Antolin, John Carter, Robert Antolin, Michael Dillon,

Robert Gauss, Barney Gingell, Guy Baker, Michael Gingell, James Gauss, M. J. Golibart, Owen Rosensteel, Douglas Beale, Robert Rosensteel, Robert Preston, William Wagerman, Carl White, Daniel Fearer, Mark Warthen and James Gauss.

Others who assisted the local Boy Scouts were the following youths who gave their time for the cleaning detail: Helen Golibart, Lori Hawk, Dwayne Gigeous, Philip Topper, John Miller, Rickie Topper, Joseph Miller, Kim Ridenour, Laura Rosensteel, Steven Warthen, Frederick Meredith, Richard Warthen.

Adult leadership was provided by the following: Robert Rosensteel, Sr.,

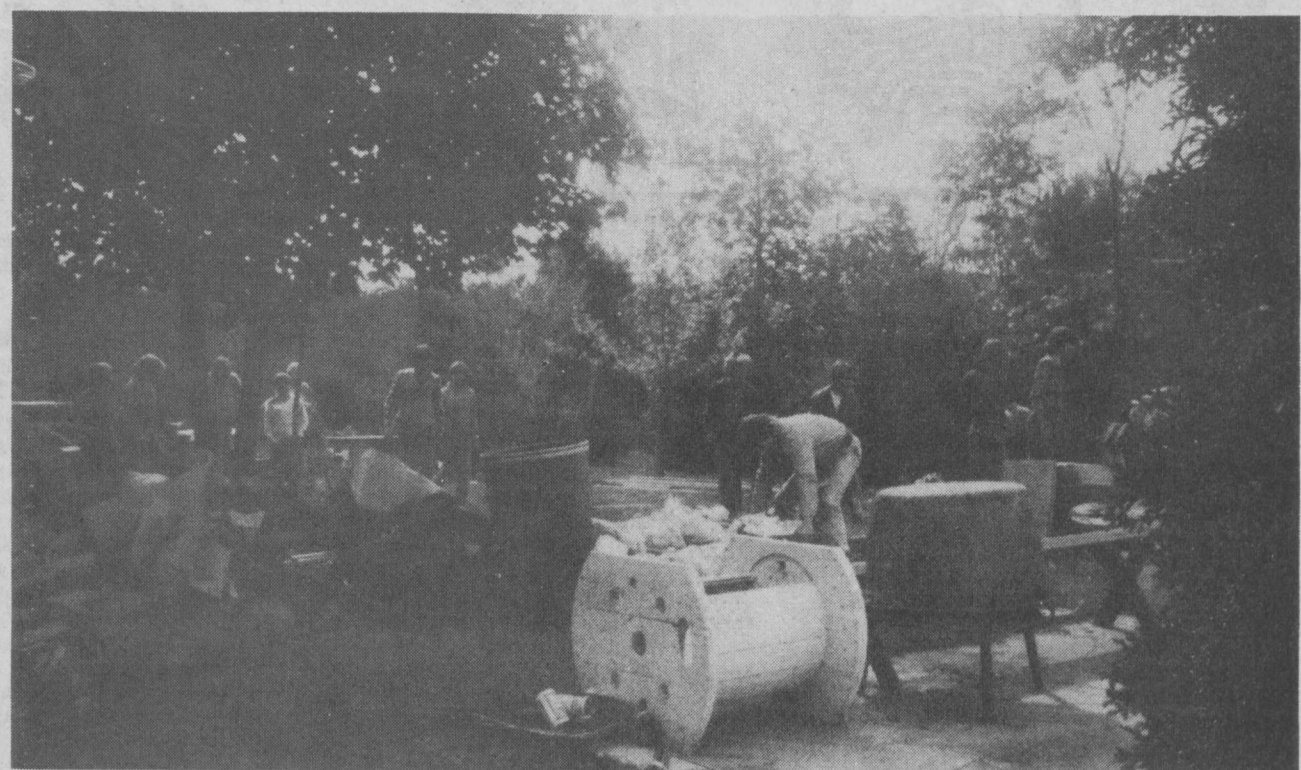
Eugene Rosensteel, Dr. Robert Preston, Scoutmaster Jay Dickinson, Mrs. Robert Rosensteel, and Girl Scout Leader, Mrs. Dorothy Seiss.

Three local Emmitsburg youths were welcomed to Troop 284 at their regular meeting last Tuesday. Our best wishes to the new members: Tony Aravanis, Edward S. Tenace and Guy Baker, III.

Local Scouts will learn about Advancement procedures and meet the Scout Review Board at their next meeting, Tuesday October 19 in the Community Center. The various stages of advancement will be discussed as well as the necessary requirements for advancement.

weekend for their fall camp-out.

After two straight weekends of rather heavy rain, the Boys in Troop 284 have high hopes for a dry



Hospital Report

Admitted: Violet Smith, Emmitsburg; Sister Gertrude Delorey, Emmitsburg; Francis Matthews, Emmitsburg; Mrs. Lulu Flohr, Fairfield; Robert Springer, Emmitsburg; Mrs. Kenneth Knox, Taneytown; Raymond Bowers, Taneytown; Lillie Anders, Emmitsburg; Mrs. Joseph Topper, Taneytown; Anna Getten, Fairfield; Lawrence Kepner, Emmitsburg; Troy Myers, Emmitsburg; Leo Andrew, Fairfield; Mrs. William Graffam, Thurmont; Angela Fogle, Taneytown; Mrs. James Shaffer, Fairfield; Mrs. Charles McGlaughlin, Fairfield; Alden Small, Fairfield; Mrs. Freeland Shaffer, Taneytown; Albert Luckenbaugh, Fairfield; Evelyn Thompson, Thurmont; Elizabeth Annan, Taneytown; Charles Sanders, Fairfield; Mrs. Harry Black, Thurmont.

The Book Nook



Reviewed By Shirley F. Topper

A Gift of Love by Gail Magruder

Anyone who is capable of feeling compassion for others and possesses enough humility to look upon those who have erred with the sincere acknowledgement that: "there, but for the grace of God, go I!" will find this book a mind and heart expanding experience.

It is all too easy to feel scornful of those who have drifted from a good beginning into stupid mistakes that destroy promising careers. To those who have not been caught up in the heady excitement of political striving and ambition, it is difficult to understand why anyone would feel driven to taking risks that could place their future in jeopardy.

Fortunately for Jeb and Gail Magruder, their harrowing experience served to bring them closer to God and a better understanding of themselves and others. Their eyes were open to misery they had never known existed and they saw people with new insight and compassion.

Their children, too, although exposed to the painful situation were helped to adjust to the change in their lives by the new and growing faith of their parents.

Here is, truly, a book with a message for everyone — for those who may be caught up in the success-at-any-price syndrome, for those who may know someone who is, and for those who already know the power of God's love to alleviate the cruellest pain and heal the deepest wounds.

This book is available from the Frederick Library system.

Zip Column

October is National Hobby Month, and Dinah Shore is the Chairwoman. Our office has sent invitations to the 4th, 5th, and 6th grades of the Emmitsburg Elementary and Mother Seton Schools, to come in for a tour of our workshop, and to receive information on various ways of saving stamps, as a hobby.

The Postal Service has accepted a consent agreement from California Probate Document Service, Inc., under which the firm is to permanently discontinue its direct mail search for missing heirs.

Following investigation by Postal Inspectors, a complaint was issued by postal consumer protection office lawyers alleging that the company was using false representatives in a mailorder scheme.

Its mass mailings of a solicitation letter and brochure to persons with identical surnames suggested that the recipient might be heir to a specified amount of unclaimed money. To find out, the recipient had to remit \$9.88 "copy-charge."

In its brochure, California Probate claimed to be a professional organization conducting in-depth research into the estates of decedent prior to sending notification to the possible heirs.

Girl Scout News

Twenty girls are enrolled in Brownie Troops #650 and #355, led by Mrs. Mary Greco and Mrs. Mary Reckley, co-leaders. They meet every Tuesday afternoon at 3:30 p.m. in the Senior Citizens Center.

One of the first projects for the new year was making a banner to be displayed at Fredericktown Mall on October 2nd — the day of the "Kick-off" for United Fund drive.

The Troop is currently working on Registration, and they are planning an Investiture ceremony at which time the Brownies will receive their Brownie pins and will be introduced to the World Association pin.

Future plans call for a Halloween Costume party to be held on October 26th, with the girls planning and doing the decorations for the party.

Other projects include the collection of aluminum cans for recycling, and making lollipops to donate to the Hospital Emergency room for the children who come as patients.

Junior Troop #1164 has divided into three interest groups for the first part of the year, while Mrs. Robert Preston, Leader, is on a leave of absence to finish her student teaching.

One group of eight girls is working on their Cooking Badge under the leadership of Mrs. Sandy Shriver at

her home, on Wednesdays after school. The group includes Dawn Gigeous, Barbara Shriver, Shelley Hess, Traci Bollinger, Tina Wormley, Karen Kittinger, Tina Kreitz, and Mary Bankard.

Another group is working at the Library with Mrs. Vernon Keitholtz on the Books Badge and the Magic Carpet. They meet on Tuesdays after school and includes Laura Rosensteel, Marty Kehne, Amy Greco and Pam Shorb.

The third group is meeting at Incarnation United Church of Christ on Tuesday after school, working on the Dabbler Badge.

Drawing and Painting, and or Art in the Round, under the direction of Mr. Gary A. Ritchie, an art teacher at West Frederick and Frederick High Schools. This group includes Mary Ann Ireland, Ginny, Beth and Meg Preston, and Mary Anna White. The whole troop will meet together on October 26th, for a Troop meeting and party at Incarnation Church.

This Junior Troop did a display of Origami (Japanese paper folding) at the Fredericktown Mall on October 2nd, at their contribution of Kick-off Day of United Way.

K of C Shrimp Feed

Council Activities chairman, Gene Rosensteel, announced at the last meeting that we will have a Shrimp Feed at the Council Home on October 31, 1976. All tickets must be paid for in advance and will be available in the Council social room. Tickets will cost six dollars a person and the deadline for their

purchase is October 24th. The feed is open to members of Brute Council, Ladies of Brute and their guests. Because of space limitations the number of tickets sold will be limited. No tickets will be sold at the door. For further information or reservations contact Gene Rosensteel at 447-2435.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC HEARING
TOWN ZONING MAP
COMPREHENSIVE REVISIONS

Notice is hereby given that the Emmitsburg Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on the new Comprehensive Revised Zoning Maps. The hearing will be held on the 2nd Floor at the Fire Hall on Thurs., Oct. 21, 1976 at the hour of 7:30 p.m.

Maps showing the boundaries of the proposed zoning districts are available for public inspection at the Town Office. The proposed maps will be on view for public inspection one hour before the hearing at the hearing location.

The proposed maps would rezone the affected areas in accordance with the proposed new zoning text, by establishing the new zoning district, Village Zone (VZ).

All interested property owners and residents are urged to attend and voice their views. Any person desiring a stenographic transcript shall be responsible for supplying a competent stenographer.

The Emmitsburg Planning Commission

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Flood Waters Strike Emmitsburg - Thur



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Annandale Bridge



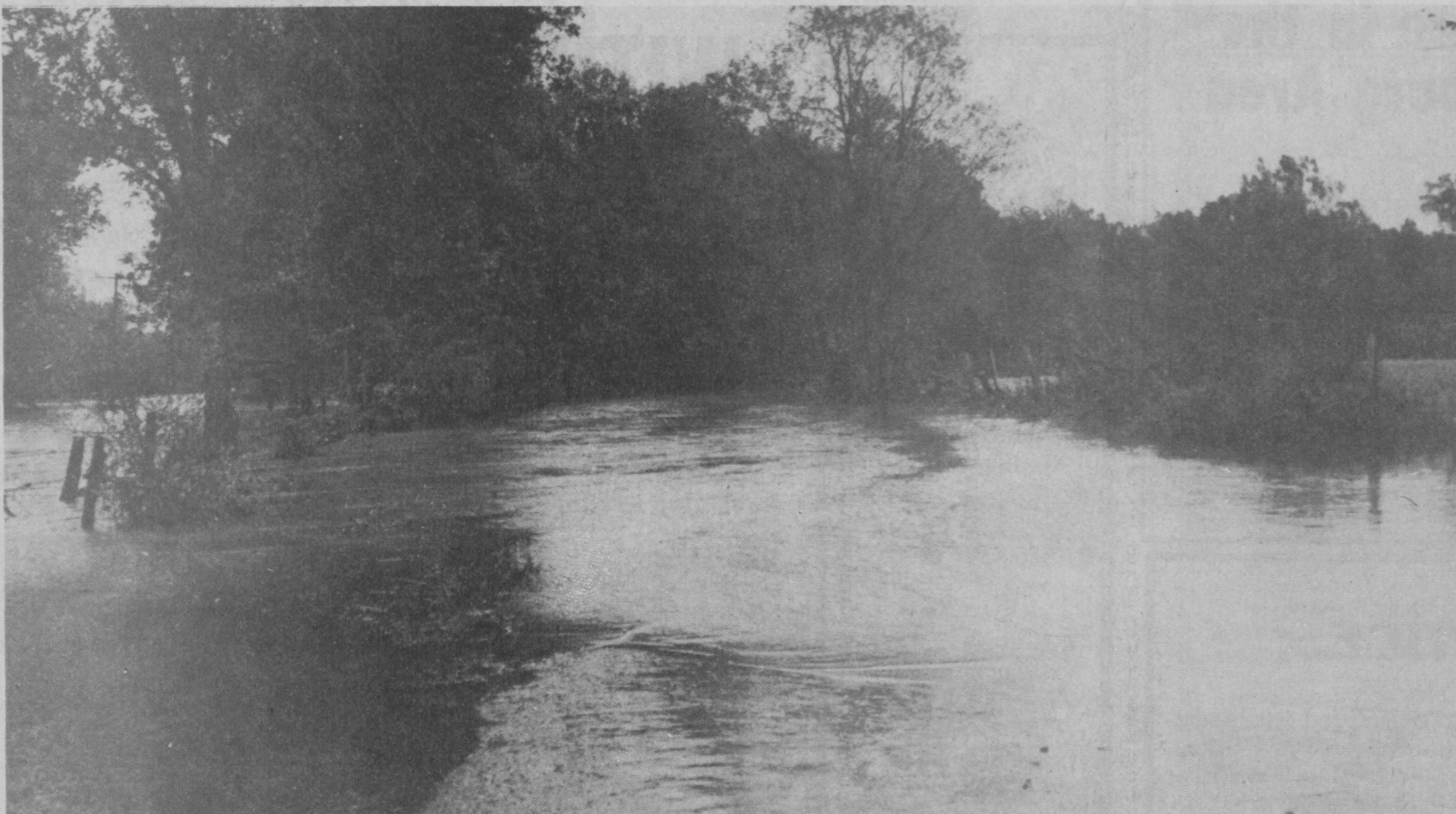
Rte. 15 at 806



Annandale Road

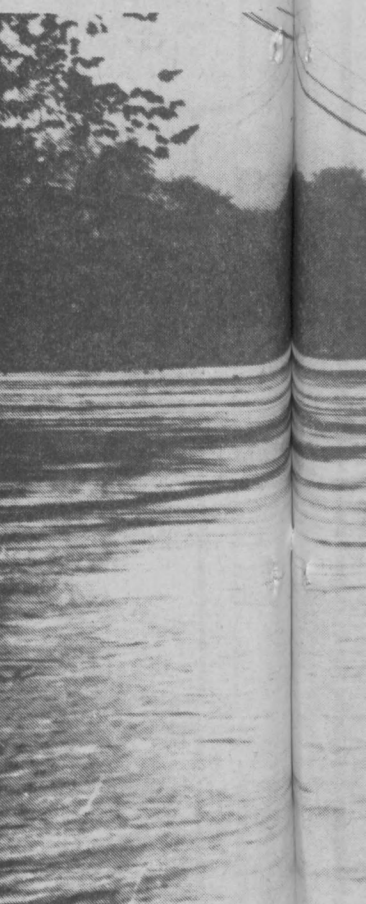


Creamery Road with No Bridge Visible

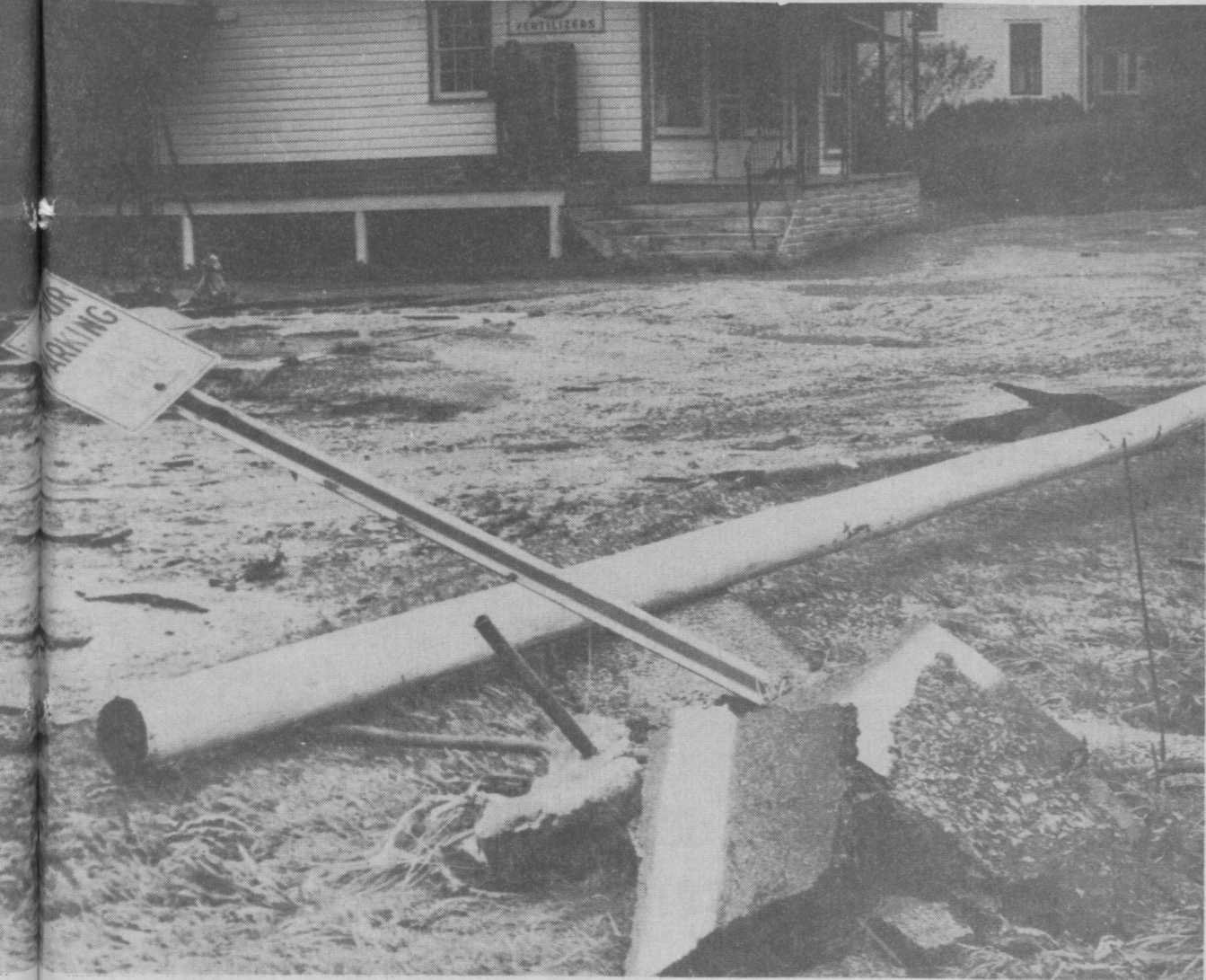


Four Points Road

*Chronicle
Photo
Feature
by
Mary
Johnson*



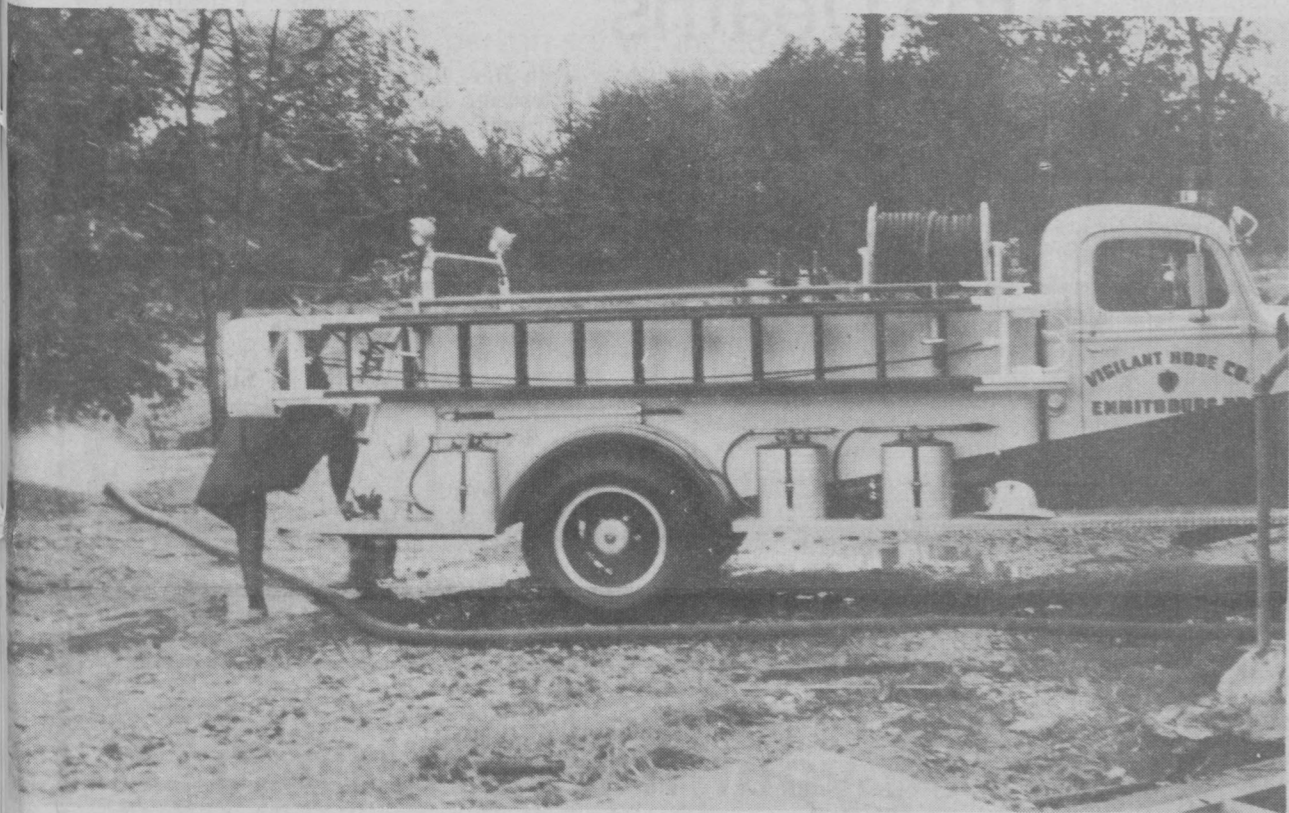
urmont Area After Early Morning Storm



Feed Store, East Main



Annandale Road



Pumping Out



Hampton Valley Road



Keysville Bridge



Annandale Road



Toms Creek at 806



Looking towards Creamery Road from Rte. 15



Catoctin Colorfest activities proceeded on Sunday as planned despite the fact that Saturday's activities were cancelled due to flood conditions. (Photo by M Johnson)



Shunpiking To Four Mills

By Floyd Lewis
At this point we backtracked into Darlington, on to Route 1, and towards Bell Ayr turned right on Route 23. In two miles we came to Forest Hills. Someone did a great job of restoring a fine old depot on the Ma & Pa Railroad (long since gone), and it is now an Arts & Crafts shop — in addition to the usual selection of paints, brushes, glitter, foam, kits, Do-It-Yourself books, and all that sort of thing, they have one small room holding the largest and most varied selections of yarns, I have seen in one place in a coon's age! While the women folk will enjoy that shop, the men can exclaim over a little, narrow-gauge steam locomotive, sitting on a few feet of track, and with a most unusual, and (I think) rare double chain drive underneath the boiler. We leave Forest Hills, and ten miles further on, find Route 138 to the left, which we follow about six miles to a Junction with Monkton Road — this is a tricky corner, and you might miss it — turn left, and about 1000 yards, over a bridge cross-

could wish for. You start out with a "little dab o' this, and a little dab o' that," till your plate is overflowing, and by the time you finish it, you have discovered so many delicious items, you just have to go back for seconds, and then — where is there room for the main meal soon brought to your table? Generous portions, too! Well, after a long day of travelling, and walking around you somehow make it. On leaving, another backtrack on Route 30, north to the edge of town, where you turn left on Route 482. A couple miles from this corner, at the foot of a long hill, there is a little, unmarked road leading off to the right, which, if you still have a mind for it, takes you to Snyderburg, a small General Store serving delicious HOMEMADE ice cream, the kind that leaves a creamy slickness to the roof of your mouth (open Sundays, too). Just past the store, take a sharp left, which brings you back to 482, and on into Westminster, and head West into the Sunset for Emmitsburg! A perfectly grand day, covering some gorgeous rolling country of which Maryland, and Harford County can be justly proud.

Fire Case History



Chief of the Vigilant Hose Company, Eugene Myers.
Last year approximately 12,000 people died in fires across the nation, and the financial losses caused by fires were \$486,540,000. Obviously, fire prevention is a very serious business.

Mr. and Mrs. John Radcliff lived in a beautiful three story home in what would be called an exclusive neighborhood. They were hard working people, each holding down a good paying job and their two small son, ages seven and nine, were left during the daytime with a reliable sitter.
One afternoon after school, the children were playing as usual in the big, homey living room; the sitter had lit the fireplace as was her privilege on cold days. Since she had other assignments in the home, the sitter went about her tasks, leaving the children to entertain themselves as was the usual procedure at this hour of the day.
This day the boys were particularly attracted to the fireplace and asked if they could have a marshmallow roast. They were told it was too close to dinner time. They sat there looking into the fireplace as the fire filled the room with warmth. Soon they were putting sticks into the fire to watch them burn. One held a long stick in the fire and walked about the room with the tip flaming. He found a paper bag and put the burning stick tip inside. When the bag caught fire he became alarmed and in his haste to hide what he was doing, he put the burning bag under a bed. In a matter of minutes the bedroom was engulfed in flame — in a matter of 1/2 hour the fire department had been there and saved what little they could of the three story structure. It was nearly a total loss!
Asked if his boys had ever had any detailed instructions on how to handle fire and matches, Mr. Radcliff said, "I always told them not to play with matches." Here were two youngsters old enough to have had thorough instructions in handling fire, putting out a small fire, how to get out of the home in case of fire, how to call the fire department, and a number of other lessons about fire that every child should be taught by these ages, and all their father had done was tell them not to play with matches! After it was all over the boys told what had happened and said, "we didn't know the bed would catch fire."
Are you assuming that your children just naturally know how to cope with fire? Because they are "smart" in school do you assume that, in case of a fire emergency, they will know what to do without instructions from you? Children are born with many inherent abilities, but fire prevention is not one of them! If you haven't taken the time to teach your youngsters the basic essentials of fire prevention, start today.



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THANK YOU
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Letter to the Editor

To the editor:
A citizen of your city, has informed this office of many occurrences of brick sandblasting in and around the Emmitsburg area. I feel it is my duty to set the record straight regarding this practice.
I have had some experience in this area in the Commonwealth of Virginia and the State of Maryland and have seen the results of sandblasting brickwork over a period of years. Preservationists, in general, and the official state preservation agencies

of most states, Maryland and Virginia in particular, caution in the use of sandblasting old brick work for cleaning or paint removal.
Sandblasting is a destructive process which should not be used on old masonry under any circumstances. Sandblasting makes the surface of the brick rough and increases its surface area. This pitting allows more area for pollutants to attach the brick surface and gives dirt a larger adherence area. Old brick was not made in the same manner as new brick, as far as firing is concerned. The outer crust is relatively hard and the center is softer. When the outer crust is removed through sandblasting the soft inner core is exposed and will deteriorate in a relatively short time due to erosion, chemical reaction due to pollution and frost-thaw action.
The pitting of the surface of the brickwork which occurs during sandblasting disfigures structures extensively. In the process of sandblasting, ornamental brickwork may be totally destroyed. In general, the mortar joints are destroyed and a structure may need total repointing. Repointing should be avoided in general unless you can obtain craftsmen who have the expertise to duplicate the joints properly. If care in this area is not taken, the end results can be very disturbing visually and physically irreversible.
The staff of the Maryland Historical Trust, in concurrence with the National Park Service, suggests that if you must clean your brickwork an organic cleaning soap and water mixture be used. These materials will do the least damage to your building.
If your structure has been painted at some point in its history we ask that the property owner only seriously consider paint removal if the paint detracts from the structure. Certainly it would be more advisable to repaint the building rather than take a chance of its being irreparably damaged. Throughout the Mid-Atlantic region, painting brickwork structures is an old tradition. By removing the paint, the property owner is not necessarily making the building more "historic" or following proper restoration procedures. If paint must be removed, a firm experienced in this work should be consulted and the paint removed chemically under close supervision.
The staff of the Maryland Historical Trust is more than willing to aid property owners of historic properties with their restoration problems.
Jack L. Finglass
Architectural and Grants Administrator
The Md. Historic Trust

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