



Hoag & Sons', Inc.  
127 Railroad St.  
Springport, Mich.  
49284

## Sixes Dam Needed, Study Says

by John F. Barker

The Sixes Bridge Dam on the Monocacy River in northern Frederick County will be needed to supply water in the future to the southern part of the county, a new study done for the county government claims.

Northern Monocacy Valley residents have fought the huge U.S. Army Corps of Engineers project for many years and appeared to have at least delayed the project, but the new county study indicates some new battle lines will be drawn in future discussions of the dam.

In the past northern area opponents to the dam had won over the County Commissioners and had garnered support from organizations in the southern part of the county.

County residents were fairly well united at the time in opposition to the project that was intended to supply

water to the Washington Metropolitan area.

But northern area opponents to the dam may find themselves face-to-face with growing support among the County Commissioners for the dam project.

The new county sewer plan indicates that growth in the Frederick-Walkersville area will create an increasing demand for water. Fort Detrick and the City of Frederick take water from the Monocacy south of the proposed dam and require a minimum flow in the Monocacy River at their intakes of about 9.3 million gallons per day, according to the county water study.

The 1976 Frederick County Comprehensive Master Plan for Water and Sewerage, prepared by the Beavin Company of Baltimore, says the proposed \$32 million dam could

actually serve three purposes—to provide water by augmenting the river flow during dry periods, to control floods on the Monocacy and for recreation.

The county water and sewer plan update that has been more than a year in the making will become official county policy after it is adopted by the county commissioners. The commissioners are expected to hold their final public hearing on the plan sometime in late February.

Opponents to the Sixes Bridge Dam had earlier managed to have county officials delete references in the county plans to the dam.

Although some county officials had been hinting earlier that a second look at the dam might be necessary, the statements in the new county water and sewer plan were the first indications that local water needs

would be used to justify the huge Corps of Engineers project.

"Some form of low flow augmentation will be needed if growth in the Frederick area is to be sustained," says the report prepared by consultants to the county sewer authority.

The Monocacy River is a "potentially valuable water resource" the study says and the wise location of water and sewer facilities along the Monocacy could serve large numbers of present and future county residents.

The river's potential, however, according to the study, "will be severely limited without augmentation during low flows."

The Sixes Dam is just one method of augmenting the flow in the Monocacy, according to the study. A second proposal studied by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers back in 1973 would

have provided eight headwater reservoirs located in Adams County, Pa.

Since county population projections have been scaled down from the initial Sixes Bridge Dam and the reservoir proposals, either of the projects might be accomplished for less than originally anticipated, despite increased inflation, the county claims.

The study indicates the Sixes Bridge Dam could actually provide a much greater daily flow at Frederick than will be needed even under the heaviest anticipated development in the next 40 years.

County population projections say even if the Frederick area were saturated with development the water need would be about 31.3 million gallons per day and the Sixes Bridge Dam could supply 97 million gallons per day.

The water and sewer consultants claim the Sixes Bridge Dam would supply water to a large portion of the Monocacy Valley at the least cost to the county for construction.

The consultants note that both the city and county are affected by the water situation and that a task force of city and county citizens and elected officials should look at the problem and evaluate alternatives.

"The county does not have time to wait for more and larger floods and long droughts to generate sufficient concern to generate action," the study warns.

The Sixes Bridge Dam has been stalled in Congress by residents of the area who are opposed to the project. The dam had earlier been proposed as a project to help assure an adequate flow of water in the Potomac River that supplies water to the Washington Metropolitan area.

### Most Anything At A Glance

- By Abigail -

In times of crisis it becomes even more important that we look out for each other. In this cold Winter of '77, I hope we will all keep an eye out for a neighbor who may be suffering silently in a freezing house or an elderly friend who may be housebound by the icy pavements. A helping hand could bring the Spring a little sooner.

The reasons for the incredible rise in coffee prices are an obscure trail from here to Brazil. The only way we can think of for us coffee drinkers to protest is to boycott coffee. Perhaps a lack of demand will force prices down. Cocoa anyone?

Wasn't it a joy to see Amy Carter walking down Pennsylvania Avenue between her famous parents, pausing to jump over the white lines? I had begun to fear that we are a generation that has lost its joy in childhood, and is in danger of losing its children as well. There is a tendency today to separate the children, to exclude them from adult activities. The small child in church, or accompanying a parent to a meeting is met with annoyed stares. We have received invitations to neighborhood women's club meetings and even to a barbecue that included a request to leave the children home.

Instead of being regarded as innocents among us, as creatures of joy, reminders of the freedom and wonder of our own childhoods, they are regarded as noisy nuisances.

Maybe the reason some teenagers seem to reject the culture of their parents is that they have seen so little of it.

Perhaps the more democratic, less formal, New Spirit the Carters hope to bring to the land will include the children. We hope so.

★★★★

Becky Brown is now the former editor of the Emmitsburg Chronicle. Becky really brought the Chronicle back, but she's now substitute teaching and she says it's a lot easier than editing a weekly newspaper. I've seen editors come and go and each brings a new enthusiasm and plenty of changes and this time we've got two new editors - John and Denise Barker.

John is a full-time reporter for the Hagerstown Morning Herald covering the Frederick County scene out of a one-man office in Frederick. He's a 1971 graduate of University of Maryland's Journalism School and a former editor of the Bowie New-Express.

Denise, a 1964 graduate of Hunter College, has been a technical writer, a social worker and an insurance claims examiner. In the last few years she's been free-lancing and mothering two cute little daughters, Maria Teresa, 2½, and Elizabeth Ann (Beth), 10 months.

Lets wish them luck. You can see for yourselves they are making some changes.

The revised hours for the Chronicle office are: Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday and Friday, 9 to 5.

## Student Priests Learn While Helping Area

by D. J. Barker

Every week 156 young men, theology students, leave the campus of Mt. St. Mary's and go into Emmitsburg, Frederick, and other communities in Maryland and Pennsylvania to serve as volunteers in hospitals, prisons, schools and counseling centers.

They do these things for two reasons: because they feel that as students at Mt. St. Mary's they should become involved in the life of a community, and for themselves, to further their own personal growth and education.

Father Bernard O'Neill, the Director of the Field Education Program, explains that the program provides for the seminarian to give his services to the community and in return to have a learning experience. They are learning to integrate their theological studies with practical experience in ministering to those in need. "The life of a priest", Father says, "is to express love to people in need." In this program the students learn; to develop compassion and sensitivity to human needs, to learn their own limitations and to gain experience in working with

professionals in the medical, psychiatric and social welfare fields.

Among the agencies they serve are: Camp Prison in Pennsylvania, local hospitals where they receive volunteer training from the staffs, Paradise School for Boys, the Hanover Mental Health Clinic, and the Youthful Offenders Advisory Committee. Western Maryland State Hospital and South Mountain Restoration Center. The Drug and Alcohol Counseling Center in Frederick. They also help care for the children in our own Seton Center, and teach in Mother Seton School and St. Joseph's High School. There is a special project at the Biglerville Spanish Center.

Father O'Neill expressed his gratitude to the state and county officials noting that he had had great cooperation in setting up these programs with the various agencies. Eventually these young men will go back to their home parishes in Maryland, Pennsylvania and as far away as Nebraska and Alabama, carrying with them the rich and varied experiences they gained here, and leaving behind the warmth and kindness they gave.



Richard Ulman, a Mount Seminarian, works with youngsters at the Seton Center in Emmitsburg. Ulman is among more than 150 Mount student priests doing volunteer work in area institutions.

## Area Residents Take Winter in Stride

by D. J. Barker

It has been the coldest winter in many a year, but that doesn't seem to have made much difference in the lives of the people of Emmitsburg. We asked around, "How has the cold weather affected you?" And the answer was, "Not much."

There has been only a slight increase in absenteeism, which has run from 6% to 24% in the school and that mostly for children who live a long walk from the bus stop. The school busses have run their full route every day, except of course when schools were closed on account of snow days (2).

Local gas and oil suppliers report no shortages in gas or oil for residential needs and only minor difficulties meeting the need for industrial fuel gas. Emergency reserves have had to be used for some industrial needs.

Boyle's store reported an increase in trade in town, despite the sometimes slippery or slushy streets.

The Senior Citizens Center reported about 5% drop in attendance at Food N' Friends, almost surely due to folks

being housebound by icy streets. The drive in front of the Senior Citizens Center is clear, but the parking lot, across which many have to walk is frozen and snowy.

We asked at the Public Health Clinic if there has been more sickness or accidents. They said that while there were some injuries from falling there seemed to be less flu and colds because the weather has been consistently

cold. Apparently it is weather that changes from day to day that is more likely to cause sniffles and coughs.

They reported also that some people have had difficulties with frozen pipes and septic tanks. We asked for some advice for cold weather survival and the recommendations were:

It's better to dress warmer in the house rather than to turn up the heat, overheated indoor air can be too dry

for your skin and for breathing; take care of your skin with a skin cream or lotion; eat more nutritious vitamin rich food; move beds away from windows to avoid drafts.

Anyway, we all seem to be surviving and can look back on this winter and say to our grandchildren, "You think this is bad, why I remember the winter of '77."

### New Fire Truck Comes Through Blizzard

Emmitsburg's latest piece of fire equipment was stuck in a snow storm in Wisconsin this past week. Vigilant Hose Company Fire Chief Eugene Myers reported back to Emmitsburg that he was ready to leave Appleton, Wisconsin Thursday morning when he ran into a blinding blizzard and just decided to wait it out.

Thomas White, first assistant fire chief, said the new 1976 Ford fire truck with a Pierce apparatus is expected to go into service sometime later this month. It will be the fourth pumper owned by the fire company and will replace a 1951 truck that was sold last summer.

The new \$57,000 fire truck is capable of pumping 750 gallons of water per minute and has a 900 gallon water tank on it. "It will be our first line piece of equipment," said White.



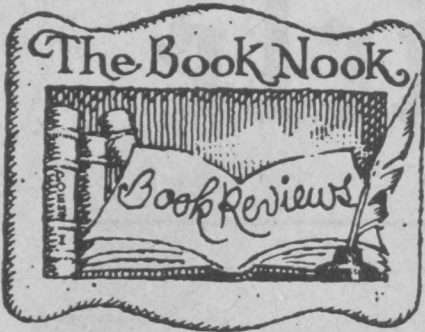
The newest addition to the local fire company was caught by a Chronicle photographer as it backed into its new home for the first time. The new fire truck made it through a blizzard and arrived at about 5 p.m. Saturday night.

### Weather

By Lucine K. Beate

Week of Jan. 22-28

Date	High	Low	Precip.
22	25	14	
23	29	9	
24	28	10	.10
25	38	24	.20
26	35	29	
27	35	26	
28	43	6	



The Positive Principle Today

By Norman Vincent Peale

Reviewed by Shirley F. Topper

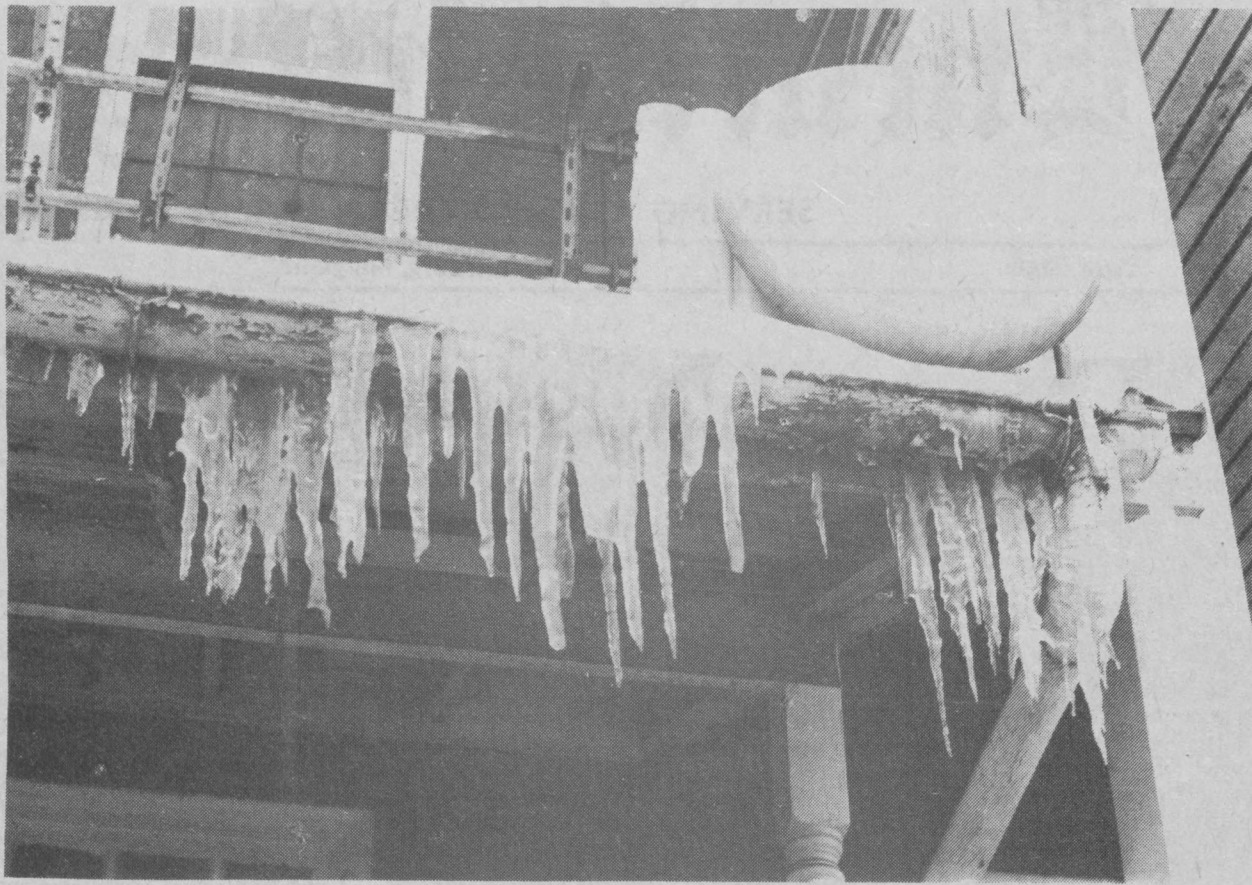
Dr. Peale has the unique ability to present deeply profound truths and ideas in a more simple and direct language than is usual with writers on such subjects.

ordinarily have neither time nor inclination to delve into ponderous tomes and might not otherwise be brought into contact with the means of fulfilling their needs.

and live victoriously, but to help you always and under whatever circumstances to keep the 'positive principle' going."

Dr. Norman Vincent Peale is the world-renowned lecturer and author of many books, including the all-time bestsellers the Power of Positive Thinking and Enthusiasm Makes the Difference.

This book is available at the Emmitsburg Public Library.



Where Is This?

Last week's "Where Is This" picture was correctly identified by Mrs. Bernice Hampson and son, Robert. The picture last week of the Presbyterian Church in

Emmitsburg. Readers of the Chronicle are invited this week to identify this icicle covered scene. It's a familiar location.

Zip Column

It has been noted that a number of our customers are inserting the contents of window envelopes, backwards. Many statements of account, insurance premiums and also correspondence to the Unemployment Office have preaddressed return correspondence designed to show through the window of the envelope provided.

In the absence of a return address, which should always be used, the letter must be sent to the Dead Letter Office in Washington, to be opened and reversed. In many cases this delay could cause the customer additional finance charge on accounts and penalties for failure to meet a deadline in other instances.

Please take special care in this regard, in order that we can provide the best in service. George E. Rosensteel, Postmaster

Rocky Ridge News

by Harvey M. Pittenger Four inches of snow fell here on Monday night Jan. 24 and the temperature was 15 degrees.

Whether a man ends up with a nest egg or a Goose Egg will depend a lot on the "Chick" he marries.

Mr. and Mrs. John N. Carroll of Boyds spent Sunday with Mrs. Cora M. Setherley and family and Mr. Harvey M. Pittenger. Mr. and Mrs. Donald Mackley of near Taneytown visited Mr. and Mr. Bruce Bowman and family.

Now a days every man wants Life, Liberty and an Automobile in which to pursue happiness.

If you go out on the road and get killed and God is not with you, where will you go? So many people do not go to the Lords House Sunday. We pray more people will go to Church on Sunday before its too late.

Sing While Your Drive At 45 miles per hour, sing Highways are happy ways. At 55 sing, I am but a stranger here, Heaven's my home. At 65 sing "Nearer My God to Thee". At 75 sing when the roll is called up yonder I'll be there. At 85 sing Lord I'm coming home.

Let us take a lesson from this advice. Fast living may be as fatal as fast driving. The unrepentant sinner is a Stranger to heaven and it is Him that he will meet there when the roll is called up yonder. Make your way today.

Children are very smart these days, at 6 they know all the questions and at 16 they know all the answers.

Utility Bill Gets Boost

State Senator Edward P. Thomas, (R-Frederick-Washington) has joined several other senators in sponsoring a bill establishing a citizens Utility Board. "For the first time labor leaders, consumer activists and the leadership of the Maryland Senate have joined forces to push for a more effective voice for the people in utility regulation and before the Maryland General Assembly," Thomas said. "The Citizen Utility Board will assure that consumers will be able to take an active well-funded part in making utility rates in Maryland make sense."

Sen. Thomas was co-sponsor of the CUB bill last year when it received unanimous support on the Economic Affairs Committee, of which he is a member, and passed the Senate 32-7. It was defeated by a slim margin by the House Environmental Matters Committee. Thomas served this summer and fall on a special General Assembly Task Force on Utility Rates and is a co-sponsor of a trio of bills this session addressing the utility rate issue. The CUB bill would set up a Citizens Utility Board made up of three consumers from

each congressional district. The elected 24 person/board would then hire a staff of experts to assure consumer interests are represented before the Public Service Commission and in the courts. The Board would be financed through voluntary contributions to be collected through a "piggyback" on consumers' utility bills. One collection mechanism would allow consumers to contribute extra money in their utility bills which the company would be required to transfer monthly to CUB. Consumers could also contribute directly to the

CUB by way of an envelope to be enclosed in utility bills. Consumers who contribute a minimum of \$2 a year would vote to elect directors. "The bill is designed to ensure that citizens are given the chance to take part equally in the process of government, especially in view of the tremendous increases in utility costs which up to this point have been beyond their control," Thomas said.

Vigilant Auxiliary

The Ladies Auxiliary to the Vigilant Hose Company plan to make doughnuts for Shrove Tuesday, Feb. 22, 1977.

Orders for the doughnuts can be taken by calling 447-6329 or 447-6282 anytime. Cost of the doughnuts will be \$1.50 per dozen or 80 cents per half-dozen. The doughnuts can be picked up beginning at 9 a.m. on Shrove Tuesday at the Incarnation Church.

Boy Scout Week

The local Boy Scouts in Troop 284 are looking for a possible project to mark Boy Scout Week, February 6-13. If you have a project that you would like to suggest for community improvement, just get in touch with Scoutmaster James Dickin-

son or Assistant Scoutmaster Robert Gauss. The Scouts are anxious to do a good turn and are eagerly awaiting word from the citizenry to come with some ideas. The labor will be free...take advantage of the offer and let us hear from you. For further information call. 447-6239.

Lutheran Council Meets

The Church Council of Elias Lutheran Church recently held their annual dinner for new Council members and retiring members. Floral arrangements of red carnations and white chrysanthemums were used on the tables. Following the Invocation by Rev. W. Ronald Fearer, the assembled council members and their guests enjoyed a roast beef dinner. Those present were: Mr. and Mrs. Michael

Hess, Mr. and Mrs. John Reaves, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Hahn, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. Roland Frock, Mr. and Mrs. Daniel McGarry, Mrs. Charles Lewis, Pastor and Mrs. W. Ronald Fearer, Mr. and Mrs. John Working, Mrs. Donald Williams, Mr. and Mrs. Roscoe Shindedecker, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Long, Mrs. Anna Bushman, Mr. Ralph Ohler, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Saylor, Mrs. Alice Schaeffer and Mrs. Yvonne

Hack. During a brief business session that followed the dinner, Mr. Robert Saylor, retiring treasurer was honored by the group for his eleven years of service to the congregation. He was presented a matched set of wallet and key case which contained dinner tickets for his family. Also honored was Mrs. Saylor who was presented a red and white carnation corsage.

Adults Need Exercise Too Federal Booklet

Have you been sitting around lately feeling kind of sluggish and vaguely out of shape? Well, one cause of that drabby feeling is lack of exercise. And when it's cold outside, it really seems much more of an ordeal to get involved in vigorous physical activity. You can do it though—and it's not hard at all once you take the first step.

Adult Physical Fitness (70 cents) is a booklet from the President's Council on Physical Fitness that maps out a gradual step-by-step exercise plan for you. It's designed so that you'll begin without strain, no matter how long it's been since you've done really vigorous exercise. For your copy of Adult Physical Fitness, send

70 cents to the Consumer Information Center, Dept. 33E, Pueblo, Colorado 81009.

The booklet gives you three general types of exercise—warmups, conditioning, and circulatory.

The warmup exercises stretch and limber up your muscles and speed up your heart and lung action, so your body will be ready for greater exertion. This will reduce the risk of strain too.

The conditioning exercises are planned to tone up abdominal, back, leg, arm and other major muscles.

The circulatory activities are the most vigorous and you choose one for each workout. They include alternately running and walking, skipping rope, or running in place. All are effective.

Be very sure before you start on any exercise program that you have a checkup by your family doctor. And tell the physician what kind of exercise you have in mind. Adult Physical Fitness (70 cents) is one of over 200 selected Federal consumer publications listed in the catalog, Consumer Information. Published quarterly by the Consumer Information Center of the General Services Administration, the catalog is available free by sending a post card to the Consumer Information Center, Pueblo, Colorado 81009.

Lutheran News

Youth Sunday was observed in Lutheran congregations across the United States last Sunday, January 30. Locally, Elias Lutheran Church marked the day with members of the Luther League and the Children's Choir participating in the service.

Assisting Pastor Ronald Fearer in the Liturgy for Youth Sunday were the following members of the Luther League: Denise Sanders, John Holt, Daniel Fearer and Miss Betty Koontz. Serving as ushers and greeters were: Robert Leatherman, Deborah Andrew, Allyson Sanders

and Brenda Leatherman. Acolytes for the Youth Sunday Service were April Dawn Stoops and David Holt. The Children's Choir presented the anthem, "A Children's Prayer", accompanied by Mrs. Carolyn Eyer.

Serving as Advisors for the Luther League are Mr. and Mrs. Richard Smith and Miss Betty J. Koontz.

See Our Fine Selection Of American Greeting Valentine Cards CROUSE'S On The Square Emmitsburg Maryland

Food 'N Friends Menus

The following meals are being served this week at the Emmitsburg Food 'N Friends program for area senior citizens:

Feb. 8 — Hot beef with gravy, mashed potatoes, buttered peas, bread & butter, apricots, milk.

Feb. 10 — Broiled chicken pot pie with potatoes, buttered carrots, bread & butter, apricot/pineapple salad, cookie, milk.

Feb. 7 — Hot beef on roll, buttered corn, buttered broccoli, cake, milk.

Feb. 9 — Chile, cole slaw, green beans, roll & butter, peaches, milk.

Feb. 11 — Chicken noodle soup, bologna sandwich, tomato squares, baked apples, cookie, milk.

Scout News

Boy Scout Troop 284 will be marking Boy Scout Week with several activities during the next week. Saturday, February 5 at 12:00 noon, the Troop will meet at the Emmitsburg Pharmacy to arrange a display of Scout items in the window.

Through the courtesy of Mr. Paul M. Carter, the Scouts will display merit badges, patches, Scout equipment and other interesting articles in observance of Boy Scout Month. A Court of Awards will be held Tuesday, February 8 at the local Community Center at 7:30 for parents and friends. This will be one of the highlights of the week as several of the local Scouts will be advanced to a higher rank and many will receive merit badges for their work.

Boy Scout Sunday will find the members of Troop 284 at worship in one of the local congregations.

Tuesday, February 8 will be School Uniform Day in all schools. So, all you Boy Scouts, Cubs and Webelos... remember to wear your full uniform to school.

CORNEY'S CORNER RESTAURANT AND SNACK BAR

Now Featuring FRIED CHICKEN SINGLE SERVING OR FAMILY SIZE BOX TO TAKE HOME CALL AHEAD TO AVOID WAITING Phone 447-2484 ALSO DAILY LUNCH SPECIAL COLD BEER & WINE TUESDAY NITE SPECIAL

Hospital Report

Admitted: Mrs. Jay Shaffer, Fairfield; Mrs. Robert Wangness, Thurmont; Mrs. Ruth Stull, Thurmont; Keller Misner, Emmitsburg; Robert Warthen, Emmitsburg; Mrs. Marshall Stottlemeyer, Keymar; Patricia Hoke, Thurmont; Jesse Sanders, Fairfield; Beatrice Umbel, Emmitsburg; Mary Saylor, Rocky Ridge; John Reese, Fairfield; Roy Willard, Rocky Ridge; Mrs. Howard Miller, Rocky Ridge; Mrs. Francis Krietz, Emmitsburg; Cheryl Coleman, Union Bridge; Michelle

Baker, Taneytown; Elsi Titman, Thurmont; Mrs. Charles Wilson, Fairfield; Mrs. Edward Fitzgerald, Thurmont.

Discharged: Mrs. Francis Ott, Rocky Ridge; Mrs. Leroy Humerick, Emmitsburg; May Lingg, Emmitsburg; Raymond Gantz, Taneytown; Mrs. William Reckley, Thurmont; James Small, Fairfield; William Holt, Rocky Ridge; Richard Kline, Emmitsburg; Brain Carson, Thurmont; Stacey Seiss, Thurmont;

William Tunison, Fairfield; Margaret Bohn, Emmitsburg; Willie Shumate, Fairfield; Mrs. Kenneth Yingling, Union Bridge; William Kelz, Emmitsburg; Mrs. Robert Wangness, Thurmont; Beatrice Umbel, Emmitsburg; Keller Misner, Emmitsburg; Leroy Dinterman, Rocky Ridge;

EMMITSBURG PHARMACY paperbacks & magazines cards & beauty items Paul M. Carter, Pharmacist Phone 447-6226 Emmitsburg, Md.

MIRIAM B. Transue REAL ESTATE Full Service Broker Carroll Valley Agency Dedicated to Professionalism In Real Estate: Your BROKER should be chosen with the same concern as your Doctor, Dentist, Lawyer, or Accountant. WE BELIEVE THIS Therefore, what benefits us must benefit you. Please Call For An Appointment Phone: 717-642-8805 R.D. 1 Box 243 Fairfield, Pa. 17320 652-5806

Subscribe Emmitsburg Chronicle \$6 — a year Clip out or call 447-6344 Name Address Box No. Town State Zip Code Mail to: Emmitsburg Chronicle 19 East Main St. Emmitsburg, Md. 21727

Yes, I want to order a copy of "Emmitsburg History and Society." Enclosed please find \$5.70 (includes tax and postage) to reserve my copy. PLEASE SEND TO: NAME ADDRESS CITY STATE ZIP PHONE Mail to: Emmitsburg Chronicle 19 East Main St. Emmitsburg, Md. 21727 Make checks payable to Emmitsburg Newspaper, Inc.



**Emmitsburg Chronicle**  
 Established 1879  
 Successor to the Emmitsburg Banner, Established 1840  
 EMMITSBURG, FREDERICK COUNTY, MARYLAND

Published weekly on Wednesday by EMMITSBURG  
 NEWSPAPER, INC., 19 East Main St., Emmitsburg, Md.  
 21727.  
 Telephone 301-447-6344

**PUBLISHER**  
 EMMITSBURG NEWSPAPER, INC.  
**ACTING EDITORS**  
 JOHN AND DENISE BARKER

Copy for advertisements must be received in this Office  
 not later than Friday, noon to insure publication in the  
 current week's edition. Advertising rates furnished upon  
 request. Subscription rate, \$6 per year in advance. All  
 Communications and Checks intended for this Paper  
 should be addressed and made payable to EMMITSBURG  
 NEWSPAPER, INC., Emmitsburg, Maryland 21727.  
 Second class postage paid at Emmitsburg, Md. 21727.

**Editorial**  
**Assessments**  
**The Real Issue?**

A lot has been said and a lot more will be said as state legislators begin to tackle the sticky question of ever increasing tax assessments on property.

But, as usual, the moss-bound legislature is attempting to apply a band-aid to a gaping wound to appease angry taxpayers without upsetting the status-quo apple cart.

What it means to the average taxpayers is the people who represent us in Annapolis will wind up not taking as much from our front pockets, but will wind up cutting off our pants while trying to steal our wallets.

Just take a look at what is going on. After taxpayers swamped legislators with mail about tax assessments, the legislators' rightfully proclaim that a lid must be placed on tax assessments while on the other hand they'll wind up taking more money from us ordinary folk with a one per cent increase in the sales tax.

And horrors of horrors - some members of the legislature and esteemed colleagues of the press are labeling this tax reform.

Space won't permit a detailed discussion of the inequities of the tax system, and the need to move away from property taxes on residential properties altogether. But suffice it to say that there is a crying need for real tax reform.

Study after infernal study has already shown legislators that a sales tax hits hardest those folks who spend a larger percentage of their income for the necessities of life. Yes, there are a large number of people out there who make so much money each year that they simply can't spend it all on goods and wind up investing a large percentage of their income. And those unfortunate folks, who can well afford tax increases won't bear as near a harsh burden as the ordinary working family.

The real issue on the questions of taxes should not be just changes in the assessment procedures, but meaningful tax reform - the kind of reforms that would phase out the property tax while increasing the income tax to meet necessary expenditures. And we do emphasize necessary.

The problem, of course, with the present state income tax is that it is based on the federal income tax that provides the rich and the powerful with loopholes big enough to drive a truck through.

Those loopholes are passed

to the state level since the state income tax forms allow you to pass on the same deductions you took on your federal return.

That doesn't necessarily mean that Marylanders should have to wait for federal elected officials to revamp federal tax laws before the state takes action. The Annapolis legislators could well get off their duffs and enact meaningful income tax reforms without waiting for someone higher up to do the job they won't do.

They could also move to phase out or completely eliminate the property tax on residential properties in favor of increases in the income tax.

They could do all those things, but they probably won't.

Meanwhile, it wouldn't be improper for northern county residents to answer with loud guffaws claims by town and county leaders they are concerned about the rising property tax.

The truth is that they could offset the increase in assessments by simply lowering the tax rate, thus keeping the taxes you pay to the towns and the county approximately the same as the year before.

Now, they could do that, but they probably won't. The present system that allows assessments to creep up each year provides for a built-in tax increase that is painless for local elected officials because they don't have to increase taxes each year to get it.

If the local elected officials thought they might have to live within their budgetary means each year or justify a tax increase, they might be a bit more frugal with taxpayers dollars.

In fairness to the elected officials, however, there is often a need for growing expenditures to meet real needs. But it should be incumbent upon them to justify those needs by asking taxpayers for a real tax increase, rather than doing it through the back door with the hike in assessments.

While it is encouraging that some taxpayers have gotten mad enough to wonder what the heck is going on, it's a little discouraging to see that so much of the heat is not being directed to the real questions.

It won't take some people too long to get smart, however, and there just might be some real changes despite the wishywashy approach to the matter being proposed by some area legislators.

**New Zoning Law**  
**a Good Start**

The Frederick County Commissioners had a tough and perhaps unpleasant decision to make, but they bit the bullet and are to be congratulated for their effort to put an end to the land madness that has infested mostly the southern part of the county for the past 10 years.

The adoption of the new Frederick County zoning ordinance that sharply restricts the kind of urban sprawl that has laid waste to vast areas of this county's best agricultural lands was a good step forward.

It is certainly not an easy pill to swallow for many area farmers. It will undoubtedly mean their chances of becoming millionaires by being the first to sell out to the big city speculators is greatly diminished as a

result of the new county measure. On the other hand, it may now be possible to continue in farming without the tremendous economic pressures that have been rampant here in recent years. It might even be possible to purchase a few additional acres of adjacent farm land at a reasonable price now that everyone won't be holding out for those big development dollars. Farm land might even begin to be priced at or near its value as farm land.

Unfortunately, many of the people who are being financially affected by the new county zoning law will just continue the battle for what they want in the courts. We hope county officials will continue their fight if necessary to ensure the future of the county.

**Prices: Putting On the Big Squeeze**

by Olaf Hage

Feel like a sucker? You pay \$3.20 a pound for coffee.

Oil is up to \$14 a barrel and natural gas is being decontrolled.

AT&T is profiting along in a league all by itself, making \$4 billion a year after taxes, yet C & P Telephone—wholly owned by AT&T—has asked for still another giant rate increase, this time \$83 million.

Literally tens of billions of dollars in price increases are being siphoned out of the pockets of the American people this year.

Where is it all going and why?

Are you being robbed and cheated?

Or is it just collective "bad luck" as a nation?

Take natural gas for example.

In 1954, natural gas was regulated at 10 cents per thousand cubic feet. The energy in a thousand cubic feet—"Mcf" for short—is about equal to that in seven gallons of gasoline.

Seven gallons of gasoline cost you about \$4.00 at the pump right now. How much does one "Mcf" of gas cost?

From 10 cents in 1954, the Federal Power Commission (FPC) lifted the price to about 30 cents in 1974, and an average of 65 cents last summer. But that 65 cents is the average "well-head" price, not what ends up on your gas bill. Gas companies billed consumers an average \$2.50 per Mcf last summer.

Of course, things are tighter now. Chances are, the price of gas for heating in some areas is hitting the \$4.00 level, or about the same as gasoline.

So it's time to decontrol gas.

Why not? Under the "control" of the FPC, prices have gone from 10 cents to \$1.44 for newly discovered gas. The "incentive" to drill new wells has increased over fourteen-fold.

Yet during the same period of time, as the price of gas gradually rose during the 1960's, exploration slowed down.

By the 1970's, gas prices shot upward at an ever-increasing rate. And production peaked out and began to fall sharply.

were going as high as the market would bear...well over \$2.00 per Mcf in some cases.

It's a dangerous game. A kind of pat-half Texas poker played for half a trillion dollars (that's five-hundred thousand times a million dollars) or more over the next ten or fifteen years alone.

On one side are you and I—the consumers.

On the other side are the gas producers and owners.

We pay them for gas in five ways:

- 1) We may buy natural gas directly for our homes or businesses;
  - 2) We buy goods in the market-place that are made from gas, like fertilizer and various petro-chemicals;
  - 3) We buy things which use gas in their manufacturing process (glass, textiles, etc.);
  - 4) We buy goods and services from people who are dependent upon gas-produced items (like farmers who use commercial ammonia fertilizers);
  - 5) And we buy goods and services from companies whose workers must be paid more because their cost of living has been driven up by rising gas prices.
- So even if you yourself don't heat your home with gas, you'll still end up paying for the higher price indirectly.
- As you can see, the price increase will drive up farm production costs, shopping and packaging costs, and even the cost of heating your local supermarket or grocery store. The full combination will hit later this year in the fall.
- Meanwhile, the record cold weather and the California



**Consumers**  
 are  
**Feeling the Pinch**

and Midwest droughts will also be pushing up food costs.

Farmers won't profit from all this; that's for sure. Neither will the consumer. Factories without fuel are driven toward bankruptcy.

If decontrol occurs, roughly \$20 billion in higher gas prices will pass from our pockets in 1977 compared to what we paid in 1975. Who will get that \$20 billion?

Lease-holders and stock-

holders, mostly wealthy people in Texas and Louisiana (and wherever the super-rich are to be found) will get the bulk of that \$20 billion.

About \$5 billion will end up as tax revenues.

Government officials are well aware that this constitutes a hidden tax on your income. You are, in effect, being taxed by the gas industry for the politicians

who haven't got the nerve to take your money directly.

Even worse, this secret tax is exacted just as heavily against the rich and poor—except that it turns out to be a far bigger chunk of the poor person's total income than the rich person's. Besides, many well-to-do people own natural gas leases or stock, so they may actually come out ahead.

So in the end, who benefits?

**The Weather: Another Theory**

By W. Solstice, Jr.

THE CHRONICLE has learned from an unimpeachable source that the great mass of sub-zero cold air sitting over the Eastern U.S. was imported from Canada by a method closely linked with the petroleum industry.

While record cold weather gripped much of the nation in January, leading meteorologist scratched their heads in puzzlement, unable to account for the phenomenon.

"It's a mystery," said one, who refused to be identified.

"You got me," said another when cornered at a car-wash.

"Never second-guess Mother Nature, my son," said Dr. Winter Solstice, interim executive director of the New Age Sun-Worship Society & Umbrella Repair Shop of East Buckeytown, Maryland.

"You see, my son," Dr. Solstice continued, "there are more things in heaven and earth than are dreamt of in your philosophy.

"Whaddaya mean?"

"The Oil Companies," he whispered solemnly. "They did it."

We were astounded.

Dr. Solstice has been thoroughly checked out by the CHRONICLE and found to be unimpeachable. Special Waterbug Persecutor Alfred E. Nueman observed:

"Of course Solstice can't be impeached. He's not a government official."

That was good enough for us, so we turned to Dr. Solstice for more information.

"My son, the oil companies

brought all this coldness upon us. It is not mere coincidence that it got cold just when they wanted to raise the price of natural gas."

We were flabbergasted.

"No, my son, they are behind everything."

Everything?

"You bet. Haven't you noticed all those pipelines that run up into Canada?"

Pipelines? You mean for pumping Canadian oil and gas into the U.S.?

"You bet. Only now they pump cold air."

We were dumbfounded.

"Ever notice, my son, that the weatherman on television always says that the cold

gas in those pipes, it must be air. And the air is coming from Canada, right?"

His logic was impeccable. We checked with the Federal National Emergency Office of Obscure Energy and Fuel Supply Statistics and verified that U.S. imports of oil and gas from Canada have indeed been falling ever since the 1973 "oil embargo". So there apparently IS plenty of air in those Canadian pipeline connections. And the air is likely to be colder than the air normally found in the Southeastern United States, for example.

It was all beginning to add up.

We decided to make a terrifically expensive trans-Atlantic phone call to Dr. Osgood N. Vague, Chief of Her Majesty's Royal Meteorological Clinic and Director of Queen's High Atmospheric Cloud Assessment and Bubblegum-Removal Center.

We asked Dr. Vague if he had heard of the Solstice theory.

"Of course. About December 21st every year the sun reaches its low point," he said. "And it's no theory, my dear lad. It's a proven scientific fact."

We explained that we were referring to Dr. Winter Solstice of the New Age Sun-Worship Society.

"Oh that Solstice. My dear lad, if you will permit me to say so, your good Dr. Solstice is a nut. He's the same crackpot who claimed the coffee shortage was created

by a conspiracy between Indian Prime Minister Indira Ghandi and the British East-India Tea Company. Something to do with the Brazilian frost and a huge tanker full of iced-tea, I believe."

We were crestfallen.

But, we asked, what about cold Arctic air being pumped down out of Canada in unused natural gas pipelines right into people's homes—Could there be any truth to that?

"You bet, my dear lad. And it isn't Solstice's theory at all. It's mine. He stole it from me. You can't trust him. He's a four-flusher. Cheats at bridge. He's simply unreliable. Don't believe anything he says. Except, of course, the part about the Canadian air being pumped down in the pipelines. That's true. But I thought of it first."

We thanked Dr. Vague and returned to confront Solstice with our findings.

"Vague's a nut, my son. He can't be trusted. He's hated me ever since I married his sister Samantha. Don't listen to anything he tells you. Except, of course, the part about the Canadian air in those pipelines. That part is true. But it was my idea, not his."

We were uneasy. What about the warm air that was here before the big freeze set in, we asked. Where did that go?

"Alaska."

We were well aware the Alaskans were enjoying their warmest winter on record, but the whole idea seemed

ridiculous at this point.

"My son, just listen. There are pipelines running from the East back here where it's cold, out West to the California coast where they are having heat and drought. With no gas being pumped to California, the pipelines must be full of air—warm air from the East and South. Once our warm Eastern air gets to the West Coast it's put into those new liquified natural gas tankers and taken the port of Valdez in Alaska."

Wait a minute, we protested. Where did all those tankers come from?

"From the Algerians. They have a whole fleet of them just waiting around until the U.S. government grants the gas companies permission to begin importing liquified natural gas from Algeria. It was supposed to begin a couple of years ago, but the government keeps dragging its feet. So they've got this big fleet of LNG tankers with nothing to do."

Once again, his logic was impeccable.

"We didn't have any record cold winters last year or for a lot of years before that. And you know why?"

Because the Alaskan pipeline wasn't finished, we ventured.

"You bet. Now that the Port of Valdez is able to receive tankers and the pipeline is nearing completion, they have some place to store all the warm Southern air."

Store you mean it's only temporary? All those meteorologists who failed to predict this cold winter are now saying that we're practically in a new ice-age. It will be super-cold until May, they say.

"Don't pay any attention to meteorologist. Dr. Vague is a meteorologist. And he cheats at bridge. You can't believe a thing they say. You wait. Come February or March—April at the latest—temperatures will be back up into the 80's and 90's. And suddenly we'll have gas coming out of our ears. People will be sweating before May. Then we'll see who's a crackpot."

One last question, we said. There are reports that a special Senate investigator was sent to Texas a few days ago and found 60% of the wells shut down, with no gas being pumped. What if that's true?

"Poppycock, my son. There's no cold air coming from Texas. It's all being pumped down from Canada. If all those Texas gas lines were full of gas, they wouldn't be able to pump cold air through them, would they?"

His words were irrefutable. It all seemed to make perfect sense now.

"You bet. February's going to be a scorcher."

**Satire**

air is being 'pumped down out of Canada?'"

Well, yes, but he's talking about air pressure, we noted.

"You bet. And lots of it. They use all those pipes to pump cold air right into people's homes. That's why they feel so cold. Every time they turn up the heat, all they get is more cold air. It's a vicious cycle."

We were stunned.

"You will notice, my son, that most of those people who are complaining use gas heat."

We interrupted to point out that the problem was, after all, a shortage of natural gas.

"You bet. If they don't have

**Delegate Beck Reports**

Farming in Maryland represents 14.2% of the Gross State Product. Over the past 25 years the amount of land in agricultural use had steadily dwindled from 64.1% to 43.9%. If this trend continues, by the time the year 2,000 rolls around, only 14% of the state's land will remain in active farming use.

Yet, like the weather, farmland preservation is getting to be something everybody talks about, but nobody does anything about.

The problem does not lie in disagreement about the

merits or need for a program to preserve farmland, but rather in the fact that the General assembly cannot agree on a method for funding such a program.

The basic plan for farmland preservation, introduced during the 1975, 1976 and present session, proposes that agricultural districts be created by farmers joining their lands together for the purpose of keeping the lands for agricultural use. The farmers could, then, sell easements to the state. In

essence, the state would pay the farmers to keep their land in agricultural use.

When the first farmland preservation bill was introduced in 1975, the methods proposed for funding the program included raising the state property tax assessment by 1¢ and raising the property transfer tax by 1/2 of 1%. Both of these funding mechanisms met with strong Legislative opposition.

An interim Legislative Committee, on which I served, was appointed to

redraft the '75 bill and come up with an acceptable funding method. The committee redrafted the bill and proposed that farmland preservation be financed for the first two years by 25% of the \$13 million collected annually under the Open Spaces Program. Thereafter 50% of the Open Spaces funds would be appropriated annually for the state purchase of agricultural easements.

The 1976 General Assembly considered the committee's proposal, passed

enabling legislation for farmland preservation, but turned thumbs down on the funding plan.

This session a new plan for funding farmland preservation has been introduced. The new plan proposes a 1¢ tax on throwaway bottles and cans to fund the program. This proposal came very close to getting the endorsement of the Assembly leadership. But after agreeing to support the measure, they did a 180 degree turn and withdrew their support, thus increasing the odds against the bill's

passage.

It remains to be seen whether farmland preservation funding will survive its third bid for passage.

According to Maryland law, a student may terminate his education at age 16. Whether we like it or not, some students will choose not to complete their high school education. I believe every reasonable effort should be made to discourage students from dropping out of school.



# Emmitsburg Learning Council Holds Meeting

First quarterly meeting of the ELLC governing board was held at Seton Center, Thursday evening, January 27 with 9 members present. Dr. Robert Smith, Supervisor of Adult Education for the Board of Education was welcomed and discussed the policy concerning students under age of 18 taking adult courses.

No student regularly attending Public Schools under age 18 can take adult

courses except when there are no offerings for the specific course available in their home school, or unless their program of study conflicts with the course they would like to take.

New persons appointed to the Council are, Mrs. Gwen Topper, representing Seton Center, Sr. Martha Yardly, representing the Provincial House and Sr. Mary Magdalene, representing Villa St. Michael. The courses presently in

progress under the Board of Education and the ELLC are:

Sewing, Yoga, Biblical Literature, Woodworking, Typing, Physical Fitness, Decoupage and the GED—ABE courses.

The extremely bad weather has lowered the attendance at all classes. Dr. Smith stated that short courses (no longer than 6 weeks) may be instituted in April.

Susan Sanders was asked to serve as Chairman of Curriculum Committee.

Other members are, Sr. Grace, Mary Scott, Sr. Marg Magdalene and Norman Flax.

Gwen Topper, Sr. Martha, and Delores Henke were suggested for the Publicity Committee.

The following officers were elected:

Pres.— Sheila Chatlos  
1st. V. Pres.— Sr. Grace  
2nd V. Pres.— Ann Marshall  
Record. Sec.— Lucille Bealle  
Corres. Sec.— Sr. Mary John  
Historian— Clara Harner  
Treas.— Bernard Welty



The White House at the Seton Visitor's Center is now open again for visitors. The enter had been closed for two weeks during the low point in the tourist season in the last few

weeks of January. More than 200,000 visitors came to Emmitsburg in the past year to visit the shrines of the first native-born American saint, Elizabeth Ann Seton.

## CICHA Program Extended to Include Frederick County

The Commerce and Industry Combined Health Appeal an avenue through which companies, employee groups and public employees can help support voluntary health agencies in a single campaign at the company or organization, is being extended to include Frederick County.

Traditionally, the CICHA program has been limited to central Maryland programs of the member health agencies but it will now include the state.

There are eleven health agencies participating in the Frederick County CICHA Campaign. They include: the Multiple Sclerosis Society, American Lung Association,

American Diabetes Association, United Cerebral Palsy, Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, American Council on Alcoholism, Mental Health Association, Muscular Dystrophy Association, Kidney Foundation of Maryland, Medical Eye Bank of Maryland, and Retinitis Pigmentosa.

In an effort to assist the CICHA campaign Nicholas Tinker, Connie Twigg, Jean Galvin, Jane Marshall, Everett Hanel, Stanley Gaver, Arthur Campbell Sr., and Allan Creed have become members of the Frederick County Volunteer Committee. The headquarters for the campaign

will be located at the Frederick County Lung Association, 102 W. Church St., in Frederick.

Donors, participating in the payroll deduction campaign, may designate to which health agencies and counties their funds should go. The undesignated funds will be divided in the same ratio as the designated funds.

Current plans are emphasizing campaigns through the January to May period, although they may be run at any time at the convenience of the company or organization.

Records show in he past that the fund raising and administrative costs of

CICHA are less than ten percent leaving 90% of each dollar to benefit the health agency programs.

The CICHA campaign does not replace all other efforts of these health agencies, but is one of multiple sources of appeals to reach all the residents and to generate necessary funds for the agencies. In central Maryland CICHA raised about 25 to 30 percent of the total necessary to fund the health programs. Through the CICHA campaign, health agencies are able to gain access to companies, organizations and employee groups which are important sources for low cost support.

## Look at the Coffee Alternatives

"If the price of coffee is taking the lift out of your coffee break, you should take a look at alternatives," says Nancy H. Steorts, Consumer Advisor to the Secretary of Agriculture.

Citing figures prepared by Agricultural Research Service's Consumer and Food Economics Institute, Mrs. Steorts said that a cup of regular coffee made with some brands cost about 6½ cents. A cup made from other brands costs about 5 cents, and a cup of coffee made from regular instant coffee costs less than 2½ cents.

"If consumers are willing to switch to tea, they can cut costs further. Tea costs less than 1½ cents a cup, depending on how you make it," according to Mrs. Steorts.

The cost of coffee almost

doubled in the past year—increasing up to \$1.46 per pound in some areas. The majority of adults have coffee every day.

"Even with inflated prices, most people are likely to drink coffee," Mrs. Steorts said. "But there are things they can do to hold down the cost. They can also switch to beverages that might cost more but will provide nutrients that a cup of black coffee will not."

For those who intend to go on drinking coffee, Mrs. Steorts has these recommendations:

- Avoid wasting it. Brew as much as you will drink and no more.
- Try coffee that is a little weaker than usual. You may like it just as well.
- Compare brand prices.
- Use regular instant

coffee. Per cup of beverage, it costs only half as much as ground and less than freeze-dried coffee, too.

— Compare the unit prices (cost per ounce or per pound) of different size cans and jars of coffee to find the best buys. Unit prices are shown on the display shelf in many supermarkets.

And for those who are cutting down on coffee and trying another beverage, Mrs. Steorts suggested:

- Drink tea, or a cereal beverage at a third or a half the cost of coffee. You can often save more by making tea with loose tea leaves or instant tea instead of tea bags.
- Use bouillon occasionally, unless you are on a low-salt diet.
- Drink milk made from nonfat dry milk powder. It

costs less than coffee. Unlike coffee, it provides important nutrients—calcium, protein, riboflavin and many others. A 6-ounce cup of milk made from non-fat powder provides about 70 calories, too. Coffee, without milk and sugar added, provides essentially no calories.

- Use hot chocolate made from a home recipe or a commercial mix. It costs little more than coffee. But for the extra cost it furnishes the nutrients of milk as well as some iron (from the cocoa). A 6-ounce cup provides 140 calories or more.
- Use fruit and vegetable juices. Some cost no more than coffee and provide vitamins and minerals.

## Hood, Mount Drama Groups to Stage One-Act Plays Next Week

Sock 'N Buskin, the dramatic society of Mount Saint Mary's College, sponsors its annual One-Act Play Festival for area colleges on Tuesday, Feb. 8 and Wed. Feb. 9 at 8 p.m. in Flynn Hall.

The festival, a showcase for aspiring actors, producers and directors, this year has attracted Hood College in dramatic competition.

The Mount will present three, student-directed one

acts—George Cramcook's and Susan Glaspell's "Suppressed Desires", "Not Insane", a student-written drama dealing with a man's complex mental experience, and "The Telephone", a comic opera by Giancarlo Menotti.

The players of Hood College will present "Mothers". George Midden's psychological drama regarding motherhood.

The one-acts will be judged by a panel of faculty members in the categories of best actor and actress, best direction, best supporting actor and actress and most promising player.

Festival tickets are \$1.00 per night or \$1.50 for both nights and can be purchased at the door or by contacting Wayne Hamilton or Melinda Ingram of Sock 'N Buskin at Mount Saint Mary's College.

Emmitsburg, Md. (301) 447-6122, Ext. 308, 322.

Mount students in the festival include Katie Marshall, Scott Bloom, Jay Powell, Barbara Betzler, Mark Infusino, Maryanne Solak, Bob Golibart, Roberta Rooney and Jim MacLane.

Hood College representatives are Susan Mansell, Mart Bleidner, Brenda Ryan, Steve Grigas and Joyce Hare.

## Mount Parents Guild Awards Funds

The Washington, D. C. Parents Guild of Mount Saint Mary's College has awarded more than \$2,500 to college projects "of sight and sound."

A 11,500 grant has been given to the college radio station, currently undergoing an identity change from WMSM-AM to WMTB-FM, "Mount Broadcasting."

Rev. James Delaney, station moderator, says the Guild's grant has helped the AM to FM conversion substantially. Specifically, Fr. Delaney says Guild dollars are buying studio mixers and highquality microphones needed to give WMTB-FM live remote broadcast capability.

Following a year of meeting federal requirements, WMTB-FM, located at 89.9 on the dial, will throw the switch later this month, Delaney says.

AND UNDER THE BRIGHT LIGHTS... Parents Guild dollars have

also given Sock 'N Buskin, the Mount's dramatic society, a stage to stand on.

Sock 'N Buskin has presented such plays as "Sugar," "Plaza Suite," and its in-hous annual one-act play festival under less-than-ideal (no stage) conditions in quaint Flynn Hall

Following months of renovations, Sock 'N Buskin can traipse across a Guild-funded 480 sq. ft. portable stage as it entertains the Mount community.

Wayne Hamilton, Sock 'N Buskin director, says the stage is a series of footporth by eight-foot blocks which can

be moved into various configurations to satisfy the physical requirements of presentation.

"Sight and Sound" have taken on new meaning at the Mount, thanks to Parents Guild generosity.

## United Democratic Women

This year of 1977 will be one dedicated to our great State of Maryland. The first quarterly meeting will be held at the Gallion, South River Road, Edgewater on the outskirts of Annapolis on Thursday, February 3. The Board of Governors will meet at 10:30 a.m. (business meeting for all members), followed by lunch at 12 noon. The Legislative Chairman, Charlotte Collette, has planned an interesting Legislative Program. A member of the Women's

Caucus of Maryland General Assembly will give a brief resume of submitted bills concerning women. Immediately following the luncheon the members will go to the State House. The hostess for

the day, Mrs. Marge Parker, her assistants and all Club Presidents or Representatives of Southern Maryland Clubs will be honored at the luncheon.

## Softball Meeting

There will be a meeting for the Emmitsburg Men's Softball League February 13 at 2:00 p.m. at the VFV.

There will be a meeting for the Emmitsburg Girls' Softball League February 6

at 2:00 p.m. at the Fire Hall. Any girl 16 years of age or older is eligible to play. If you cannot attend this meeting but are interested in playing, call Butch Myers at 447-2679 after 4:00 p.m.

## Wolfe Appointed State Chairman

Donald M. Tallman, President of the National Association of Real Estate License Law Officials, the Organization made up of real estate commissions of the United States, Canada and various territories, has appointed Charles R. Wolfe, the Chairman of the Maryland Real Estate Commission and the President of Wolfe, Matan & Sheehan Realty, Inc., as Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Association. His principal duty for 1977 is to head the committee formed to conduct a nationwide search for a replacement for Robert W. Semenow who has recently tendered his resignation as Executive Vice President of the Organization. Dr. Semenow has been the only Executive Vice President throughout the 48-year history of this Real Estate Organization. He is often referred to as the Father of Real Estate. Most people in real estate remember him as the author of "Questions and Answers on Real Estate," presently in its 8th edition, having sold over 1,000,000 copies. Dr. Semenow who is an octogenarian is a practicing attorney, a professor in the

business school at the University of Pittsburgh, as well as an active participant in National Association of Realtors.

Mr. Wolfe, whose committee is made up of members of

of Maryland tax-paid liquor, and he said their removal would trigger "modern day bootlegging operations the likes of which we have not seen since the days of Prohibition."

Distilled spirits tax revenue is shared with Maryland's 23 counties and Baltimore City.

Pointing out Maryland's proximity to the District of Columbia as well as four surrounding states, the large number of Federal reserva-

five real estate commissions from across the nation, feels that no one can really replace Dr. Semenow who is truly a legend in his own time. Resumes have already been received from License Law

Officials from a number of states. It is the hope of many in the Organization that the headquarters be moved to Washington, D.C.

tati and Richard Arrington reported on the FFA Contests and that the National FFA Week will be observed February 20-25.

The American Farmer and Proficiency Awards must be submitted by March 1, 1977

New members attending this meeting were Bruce Bassler and Patty Myers.

The next meeting will be held on February 10 at 7:30 in Lecture Hall "B" at Catoclin High School.

## Catoclin FFA News

## Personals

Rev. and Mrs. Walter Bowers of Emmitsburg and Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Wivell and Douglas of Rocky Ridge visited in Martinsburg Sunday, January 23, with the Donald Mauck family. Numerous people around the area remember "Don" the Sunbeam Blue Ribbon Bread salesman who has been unable to continue work because of illness, and he sends greetings to friends in the Emmitsburg-Thurmont area.

**ALBERT F. WIVELL & SONS**  
**CONTRACTOR**

Custom Homes      Swimming Pools  
Remodeling      Sales and Service  
Excavation      Call 447-2218

**REAVES ELECTRIC CO.**  
Residential — Commercial — Industrial

Wiring and Electrical Equipment  
Installers of Clean Pollution Free Electric Heat and Air Conditioning

402 W. Main St.      Emmitsburg, Md.  
447-2497

*Coffman Jewelers*  
DIAMONDS & FINE JEWELRY

Gifts for all occasions  
Repair Service on the premises

28 Baltimore St.      Gettysburg, Pa.  
(717) 334-1510

# State Celebrates Agriculture Week

(ANNAPOLIS)—Maryland Agriculture Week chairman Henry Schmidt of Glen Burnie said this week that consumers on the Eastern Seaboard should be "more than chilled when they read the weather news because there is a real warning being sounded about the safety of our nation's food supply."

"The abnormal weather in Florida has destroyed much of the citrus crop and devastated several months of fresh vegetable production there. Consumers will see the direct effects of this showing up in the supermarkets in the form of fewer vegetables, less fresh fruit, and higher prices."

"However, this is not just a short term problem as it may appear. California and other far western states which account for such a high portion of our canned and frozen vegetable supplies... as much as half of our total supply... these regions are now undergoing a second straight year of drought. If the dry weather conditions continue, the nation could be in a real pinch later this year for fruit and vegetables. This means higher prices."

"The lesson in this is that we must rethink our geography when it comes to producing food. In recent years it may be that we have concentrated too much of our food production in California and Florida. We have gradually given up valuable food production in the Eastern states such as Maryland. It has been more profitable to turn a vegetable farm or a fruit orchard into a housing development or a shopping center."

"It may be that the weather this year is proving that we should maintain a high and geographically-balanced food production ability by preserving and strengthening agriculture close at home. Transportation costs alone, should dictate that we balance our food production ability across the entire nation. Here in the East we have the greatest concentration of consumers and it doesn't make too much sense to transport cans of food 3,000 miles when we could be growing and processing the same food within several hundred miles of the consumer," Mr. Schmidt said.

Mr. Schmidt, who is associated with the Lebanon Chemical Company, says that the nations weather woes point up the importance of Maryland Agriculture Week which will be observed January 31st through February 5th. "There will be agriculturally-related exhibits for the public at four suburban shopping malls during February: Feb. 2nd-5th at Security Square Mall in Baltimore County, Feb. 7 through 12th at Harundale Mall in Anne Arundel County, Feb. 14-19th at Montgomery Mall in Montgomery County and Feb. 21-26th at Salisbury Mall in Wicomico County.

"These exhibits are a good chance for Maryland consumers to come out and talk to the Maryland farmers who can help insure continuation of a bountiful food supply by continuing to produce it close by," he concluded.

**CORN AND SOYBEANS**  
Carroll County, Maryland, was the top producing corn county during 1976, according to the Maryland-Delaware Crop Reporting Service. Farmers in Carroll County produced over 5.5 million bushels -- nearly 1 million bushels above 1975. Queen Annes County was a close second with 5.4 million bushels produced as Kent County farmers checked in with a production of 5.3



If you think you're cold, can you imagine how this fellow feels? This surveyor of the Emmitsburg scene has seen a few winters in his time, but the expression on his face seems a bit more pained this year.



The first flood in America of which there is any known record was that of the Mississippi River. It was recorded by Fernando De Soto in 1543!

## News from the Mount

Mt. St. Mary's College, the oldest independent Catholic college in the country, has begun its winter-spring term, 1977, with an enrollment of approximately 1300 students, according to academic dean, Bernard Kaliss.

The student body, composed of approximately 800 men and 500 women, comes to the college from 19 states and 10 foreign countries. Registrar Guy Baker, Jr., reports the students are enrolled within a curriculum containing more than 260 course offerings.

In addition to MSM's undergraduate enrollment, 75 candidates are currently registered in the college's program leading to the Masters in business administration (MBA), now in its second successful year. Kaliss reports the addition of Thomas Curley to the Mount's 1977 faculty. Curley, tabbed as part-time lecturer in education, will spell associate professor Gerald Orosz, who has taken a temporary leave of absence due to illness. Curley, at 1973 Mount graduate, holds a Masters degree from Duquesne University, Pittsburgh. He will conduct two courses, "Foundations of Education" and "Guidance in Secondary Schools."

Nearly twenty students will intern this spring semester at a variety of placements which include: Robert J. Beaton-Brooklane Psychiatric Center, Hagerstown, Md.; Terri Becker-Rock Creek Center, Frederick, Md.; Kathy Bowman - Maryland General Assembly Annapolis, Md.; Thomas Chase - Frederick City Police, Frederick, Md.; Iris Falero - Seton Center, Emmitsburg, Md.; Kathy Fazio - Toy Lending Library, Emmitsburg, Md.; Steve Gilmore - Hoffman Homes for Youth, Littlestown, Pa.; Ann Haughey - Emmitsburg Library, Emmitsburg, Md.; Liz Hefferon - Maryland General Assembly, Annapolis, Md.; Jeffrey Kilgariff - Maryland General Assembly, Annapolis, Md.; Lawrence Knott - Carroll Hope, CPA, Frederick, Md.; Colleen Long - WHAG Radio, Hagerstown, Md.; Cathy O'donohue - Ft. Detrick, Frederick, Md.; James Riley - WYCR Radio, Hanover, Pa. John Spielberger - Maryland General Assembly, Annapolis, Md.

**NEWEST INTERNSHIP**  
The newest and most interesting placement involves Joe Bathon working at the Centers for the Handicapped. Ex-social

welfare Prof. Bernice DiMichael located this placement for us. It's a perfect situation for anyone interested in a career such as Vocational Rehabilitation. CO-OP COUNCIL--A Co-op council has been formed. Its membership consists of a faculty member from each of the participating academic departments. The council will serve as a liaison between the academic departments and the Office of Counseling Services. The first meeting is scheduled for February 1.

OVER 100-January 1976 through Spring 1977 has seen 113 students involved in Co-op and internships. Students from seven academic

departments have been placed with police departments, state legislators, social agencies, research laboratories, government agencies, radio stations, school systems, public accounting firms, private businesses, corporations, banks and insurance companies. Growth in the program has been steady and increasing.

**OFF CAMPUS THIS SEMESTER**--Several co-ops are off campus this semester and not living at home. They are: Barbara Curnin, Thomas O'Connor, and Joe Bathon. Also co-opping are: Thomas Harrington, Diana McDermott and Theresa Whelan.

## Area Students Accepted to Study at Mount

Three Northern Frederick County students have been accepted to Mt. St. Mary's College for the 1977-78 school year, the college announced this week. Phillip D. Topper, of 32 Federal Ave. and Anne Deatherage, of 31 E. Main St., both of Emmitsburg and

Nancy J. Gaul, of Rt. 1, Thurmont have been accepted by the college for the term beginning in September this year. The Mount currently has an enrollment of more than 1,300 students and is the oldest independent Catholic College in the United States.

## Mount Offers College Credits for your Life Experiences

College credit for your life/work experiences? It's happening at Mount Saint Mary's College, Emmitsburg, Md.

If you're 25 years old or older with some college training but not enough to earn a degree, Mount Saint Mary's unveils a degree completion for adults,

leading to the B.S. or B.A. degree in general studies. Bernard Kaliss, academic dean, says the non-traditional undergraduate program enables adults with extensive life experience in their career and/or in community activities to earn a Mount Saint Mary's degree on a full or part-time basis.

The program, Kaliss notes, is similar to the Mount's "Operation Bootstrap", a degree program for military personnel whose college training has been interrupted by active duty. Candidates are offered the convenience of study in the college's evening division or day program. The general

studies degree includes three areas of emphasis--the humanities, natural sciences, and mathematics. For more information on how to turn "Living" into college credit contact the Registrar, Mount Saint Mary's College, 301-447-6122, Ext. 215.

## Black History Week at the Mount

The topic, "Importance of Studying Black History" delivered by Professor Walter Fisher, highlights Mount Saint Mary's College observance of Black History Week on the Emmitsburg campus, Jan. 31 to Feb. 6. Prof. Fisher, a member of the history department at Morgan State University,

will lecture and answer questions on Wed., Feb. 2 at 7:30 p.m. Black History Week, sponsored by the Mount's Black Student Union, will include an appearance by the All Saint Gospel Choir of Baltimore. The 60-voice choral group will participate

in the commemorative Mass to be celebrated Sun., Feb. 6, at 8 p.m. in the College Chapel. Fr. George Stallings, formerly with Mount Saint Mary's Seminary, will serve as main celebrant. Other activities planned for Black History Week include the showing of the film "River Niger" immedi-

tely following the Fisher lecture Feb. 2, and a union sponsored "Disco" Fri., Feb. 4, beginning at 9 p.m. For more information about the union and the week's agenda contact Ron Banks or Keith Parris at Mount Saint Mary's College, 301-447-6122.

## Are you Easy to Intimidate?

Do you stand up for your rights--or does power--either real or imagined--make you shrink? Why not take this quiz and see if you're easily intimidated. Four right answers means you probably don't let people take advantage of you.

1. If you're a depositor in a bank and someone tries to get in line ahead of you, it's best to (A) politely point out that you were standing ahead of him (B) let him get away with it (C) force your way in front of him?

2. If you receive a parking ticket and think you don't deserve it, you should (A) forget it and pay the fine (B) contest the case in court (C) explain the situation to a local politician?

3. A friend passes away and you plan to send flowers but the family asks that donations be made to charity. You should (A) follow their suggestions implicitly (B) send flowers as well as contribute to the charity (C) send flowers only?

Answers: 1. (A) Politely point out that you were standing ahead of him. Using force is as bad as being too meek.

2. (B) Contest the case in court. You'll probably get a sympathetic hearing and will not have to pay a fine. Explaining the problem to a political leader may imply that you are seeking undue influence.

3. (B) Send flowers as well as contribute to the charity. Doing so will enable you to honor the dead as well as comply with their request for donations. If you're sending flowers out of town, ask the florist to "please FTD them." It doesn't cost extra and the flowers will be sent by the Florists' Transworld Delivery network of "extra touch" florists.

## Ladies League

Standings as of January 27, 1977  
Al's Gals  
Texaco Stars  
Stamaburg's Exc. & Pav.  
Village Liquors  
Hess Inc.  
Dull Construction  
Shaft Nuts  
Gearhart's Electric

Team's High Game - Al's Gals - 575  
Team's High Set - Al's Gals - 1604  
Womens High Game- Dee Little - 147  
Womens High Set - Dee Little - 369

### Senior League Meeting

There will be a meeting of the Emmitsburg Senior League on Thursday evening, Feb. 3, 1977, at the Emmitsburg Firehall. All parents and boys are urged to attend.

## CLASSIFIED ADS

PLACE A CLASSIFIED AD QUICKLY...EASILY...JUST PHONE 447-6344

<b>FOR SALE</b> For Sale - Antique Knabe Gold Medal piano, Rosewood. Fair condition. Best offer. Call anytime - 447-2343. C-245-2-2-2t	<b>USED CARS</b> THE BEST USED CARS are found where the best used cars are sold. William (Bill) Sents Fairfield Rd. RD 3, Gettysburg, Pa. Phone 717-642-5603 c-26 tf	<b>BUSINESS SERVICES</b> <b>AUTO PAINTING AND REPAIR</b> Also minor body repair. Reasonable prices. For free estimate call 447-2416. Emmitsburg, Md. RD 1, Donald Miller. c-90 tf	<b>BUSINESS SERVICES</b> <b>AWNINGS</b> CAR PORTS PORCH ENCLOSURES <b>FIBER GLASS AWNING CO.</b> 140 East Middle Street Gettysburg, Pa. 334-4612 c-28 tf	
<b>FOR SALE</b> - 150 shares of The Detour Bank Stock, all or any part. \$35.00 per share. Calvin S. Lohr, Box 101, Thurmont, Md. c-246-2-2-3t	<b>1976 FORD GRAN TORINO</b> - Sport Coupe; Fully Equipped; 10,000 miles. <b>1975 MERCURY COMET</b> - 2-Door Sedan, 6 Cylinder, Standard Transmission, R & H, 19,000 Miles. <b>1970 FORD</b> - 4-Door Sedan, Fully Equipped. <b>1976 PINTO WAGON</b> - 4,000 Miles, Like New. <b>1975 FORD GRAN TORINO</b> - 4-Door Sedan, Fully Equipped, 25,000 Miles. <b>SANDERS GARAGE</b> Emmitsburg, Md. Phone 447-6525 c-182 tf	<b>CUSTOM SLAUGHTERING</b> & Processing of Beef, Cut and Wrapped for the freezer to your specifications. <b>NORMAN SHRIVER JR.</b> Emmitsburg Phone 447-2255 We sell beef by half or quarters. c-34 tf	<b>NEW &amp; USED GUNS FOR SALE</b> <b>Licensed Hand Gun Dealer GUNS WANTED</b> Gene's Gun Shop Eugene Bankard Emmitsburg, R.D. 2, Md. Phone 447-2869 Guns bought, sold & repaired c-7 tf	
<b>HELP WANTED</b> Wanted-Someone to baby-sit in my home one or two days a week. If interested, call 447-6360. c-243-2-2-1t	<b>FOR RENT</b> Apartment for Rent. Call Pat Ott - 447-2625 c-244-2-2-2t	<b>INCOME TAX SERVICE ACCOUNTING &amp; TAX SERVICES</b> Prompt-Professional-Confidential For Appt. Call: 241-3364 <b>HERMAN W. AYLOR</b> Accountant-Notary Member Nat'l. Ass'n. Of Accountants Sabillasville, Md.	<b>HANOVER MATERNITY SHOP</b> Complete Line Of <b>MATERNITY WEAR</b> Children's Wear to Size 6X. Dankin Leotards, Tights, & Trunks - Shower Gifts. Selva Dance Footwear 41 Frederick St. Hanover, Pa. c-107-114	
<b>MORTGAGE LOANS REFINANCING</b> Home-Business-Farm Bill Consolidation Home Improvement <b>BAD CREDIT? TURNED DOWN? CALL US!</b> <b>NO APPLICATION FEES!</b> <b>COASTAL MORTGAGE CO.</b> BALTIMORE 466-1777 ANYTIME	<b>WILSON Funeral Home</b> EMMITSBURG, MD. Phones: Emmitsburg 447-6244 Fairfield 642-8642	<b>Pioneer Baptist Church</b> 9 Hammaker Street Thurmont, Maryland 21788 <b>Pastor James A. Coblenz</b> Phone 271-7259 Now Beginning Sunday School - 10 a.m. Worship Service - 11 a.m. Prayer Meeting - Wed., 7:30 p.m. c-185-1-12-1t	<b>Income Tax Service</b> 447-6205 c-233-1-19-6t	
	<b>CODORI MEMORIALS</b> Rock of Ages Monuments, Markers Mausoleums Cemetery Lettering & Cleaning 400 W. Middle St., Gettysburg Phone 717-334-1413	<b>On Sale Now</b> Emmitsburg Looking Back A 67 page book with 130 old pictures of Emmitsburg. \$2.95 by mail. Only a few left. <b>Chronicle Press</b> Emmitsburg, Md. Phone 447-2333	<b>ANTENNA WORK</b> Estimates, Installations & Repairs of Antenna Towers & Systems <b>OUR SPECIALTY</b> <b>LOOK TO MYERS' FOR THE BEST IN SERVICE</b> <b>Myers Radio &amp; TV</b> 125 E. Main St. - 447-2202 Emmitsburg, Md. "Often Copied, Never Topped"	<b>INCOME TAX PREPARATION</b> <b>DALE L. SHARRER'S</b> Accounting & Tax Services Confidential-Professional Located on Old Frederick Rd. Between Emmitsburg and Thurmont, Rocky Ridge, Md. Call 662-8206 for appointment during evenings & Saturdays.

# Open Line

By Congressman Goodloe E. Byron  
This column serves as another vehicle to keep in touch with all segments of my constituency. It is an invitation for you to question me on issues, let me assist you with your problems, request information or comment on whatever happens to be on your mind. Letters should be sent to me, c/o U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, D.C. 20515. While space is obviously limited for printing all replies, I shall make every effort to answer each person who contacts me.

The following questions were typical of the kind asked of me in recent weeks—

**Please explain the supplemental security income program. Who is eligible?**

The basic idea of supplemental security income (SSI) is to assure that everybody who is 65 or older, or blind, or disabled has a regular cash income every month. Those who don't have enough income from other sources—such as private pensions or social security checks—can get SSI checks as a supplement. The actual payment amount depends on what other income is available, and which pays health care expenses. If you are 65 or older, or blind, or disabled, and you think you might be eligible, get in touch with your local social security office to apply.

**Do you have any information on federal financial aid programs for student assistance?**

My office currently has and HEW Fact Sheet outlining five such aid programs including Basic Educational Opportunity Grants, Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants, College Work-Study, National Direct Student Loans. Interested students need only write me c/o 1730 Longworth Building, Washington, D.C. for a personal copy of this informative leaflet.

**Where can I obtain a list of the gas mileage figures for 1976 cars?**

Free copies of the booklet entitled "Miles Per Gallon for 1976 Cars" can be obtained by writing Consumer Information, Department 84, Pueblo, Colorado 81009.

**What are you doing to slow down federal spending?**

During the 94th Congress, I introduced several pieces of legislation aimed at curbing wasteful federal spending. These included a joint resolution providing for a balanced Federal budget, except in times of national emergency; a measure requiring mandatory congressional review of all federal spending programs to evaluate the need for the continued funding of each program; and a bill which would provide a meaningful and simplified summary of just how the

federal government stands financially. In addition, I have tried to represent the views of Central and Western Maryland citizens by voting against unnecessary and expensive programs such as foreign aid authorizations and increases in the national debt.

**Who can I contact for information on HEW children's programs like Head Start?**

For information about the Office of Child Development services and publications, Head Start Bureau and Children's Bureau programs, write to Saul Rosoff, Acting Director, Division of Public Education, Office of Child Development, P.O. Box 1182, Washington, D.C. 20013. (You may also telephone 202-755-7547.)

**I read somewhere that over 3 million illegal aliens are holding down jobs in the United States. Is this true?**

A study released by the Immigration & Naturalization Service estimates that 3.5 million jobs in America are held by illegal aliens. It is unfortunate that this figure contrasts so negatively with the Labor Department's latest employment statistics showing that 7.1 million Americans can't find a job. In short, if there were no illegal aliens in the U.S. our unemployment rate could possibly be cut in half.



The cold weather has been good for ski-lovers keeping snow on the ground. The weather people are predicting plenty more of the white stuff before spring including at

least a few substantial snow storms. There's nothing like the fresh powdery white stuff, ski-lovers say. For the non-ski buffs the powdery stuff is still easier to shovel than the heavy wet snow.

## Maryland Legislature to Celebrate 200th Birthday

Saturday, February 5, is the two-hundredth anniversary of the State Legislature. On that date in 1777 the General Assembly convened for the first time under the auspices of a written constitution. Senate President Steny H. Hoyer and House Speaker John Hanson Briscoe announced that special celebrations will be held in both houses on Friday, February 4. At that time each legislator will receive copies of a facsimile edition of the Proceedings of the Constitutional Convention of 1776 commissioned by the Legislature and prepared by the Maryland Hall of Records of the State Department of General Services.

"Maryland's first Constitution was a remarkable document," commented President Hoyer. "It was admired by

leading political theorists throughout the United States and the provision for indirect election of senators was later incorporated into the Federal Constitution."

"Copies of the Proceedings of the Convention that led up to the adoption of our first Constitution have long been difficult to find," added Speaker Briscoe, "and the General Assembly is pleased to be able to commemorate the Bicentennial of State Government by making it readily available once more to the citizens of Maryland."

Ceremonies will be held on Friday, February 4 at 10:00 a.m. in the House of Delegates and at 2:00 p.m. in the Senate. Dr. Edward C. Papenfuss, State Archivist, will make the

presentation to both houses and speak briefly on the importance of the anniversary. Papenfuss, along with Dr. Gregory Stiversson, the Assistant State Archivist, wrote the introduction to the facsimile edition of the Proceedings. Entitled "The Decisive Blow is Struck", the facsimile will be donated by the legislature to all libraries in the State. Copies of the fifty-three page document and introduction will also be available for sale to the public at the Hall of Records, P.O. Box 828, Annapolis, Maryland 21404 at \$2.00 each.

## Mothers March to Continue

Despite below normal temperatures unsure footing and slick roads in some parts of the County, Mothers' March volunteers do not seem to be giving in to Old Man Winter's threats and continue to make calls in the areas assigned them to obtain contributions to the current March of Dimes campaign.

Mrs. Richard Basford, chairman of this year's Mothers' March on Birth Defects, said this week that volunteers have been turning in the contributions

they have collected, along with their kits, at the Fredericktown Bank and Trust Company on North Market Street in Frederick or at branch offices of the Bank.

"We are most grateful to our 1977 volunteers," Mrs. Basford said. "This year our Mothers' March has been presented a real challenge in the form of bad weather. While we appreciate their efforts, the 200,000 children who will be born in America this year with birth defects will be even more

appreciative.

"The funds our Marching Mothers collect for the 1977 March of Dimes will be used to help these birth defect children and will go toward research that will some day wipe-out birth defects completely," she continued.

Mrs. Basford urged volunteers who have not completed their assignments to do so within the next weeks so that "birth defects won't be forever."



The Christmas season seems to last a long time in Emmitsburg as evidenced by this picture taken last week of the town square. The town's Christmas decorations remain up despite the fact that the season is well behind us.

Perhaps it's just wishful thinking that the spirit of Christmas can stay with us for the rest of the year. Of course, if they stay up a bit longer it won't be long before next Christmas comes along.

## Coffee It Could Be Even More Expensive

by O. Hage

If you think coffee at \$3.00 a pound is too expensive, think again.

You may already be paying up to \$35 a pound.

Those fancy new "coffee" beverages being promoted for their Swiss, Austrian, and French flavors are mostly chemically-disguised sugar sold at high coffee prices, according to a public-interest group out in California.

The group—San Francisco Consumer Action—has filed a \$20-million class-action lawsuit against the Maxwell House division of General Foods Corporation on behalf of consumers who have bought the firm's new "International-Style" coffee beverage mixes.

The lawsuit accuses Maxwell of engaging in unfair business practices, false and misleading advertising, and fraud in its current intensive

campaign to promote four products: Suisse Mocha, Cafe Vienna, Cafe Francois, and Orange Cappuccino flavors of "International-Style Coffee Beverages."

The San Francisco consumer group contends that advertising for products has been designed to lead consumers to believe they are purchasing flavored coffees, when they actually are getting coffee-flavored sugar and vegetable-fat disguised with at least ten artificial chemical additives.

A check of the ingredients of each product cited in the lawsuit confirms that sugar, vegetable fat, and corn syrup solids (sugar from corn) are indeed the major constituents. The products also contain some instant coffee, but the amount is well under one-third of the total contents.

Since some of these mixtures are priced as high as \$3.58 a pound here in

Frederick County, the buyer may in effect be paying over \$11 a pound for the part that is really coffee.

However, the Department of Agriculture says there is no basis for assigning any food value to a cup of black instant coffee—while the flavored coffees register about 60 calories per cup.

The label indicated that fat and carbohydrate make up about 80% of each teaspoonful of these mixtures. So that leaves only 20% of the contents for the instant coffee and all the chemical additives.

The net effective cost of the coffee content, therefore, may run as high as \$20-to-\$35 a pound—depending upon how big a share of the total is given over to artificial chemicals.

\$35 a pound?

Sugar, the chief ingredient, now retails for as little as 20¢ a pound.

## Notes on Assessment Appeals

With the recent mailing of property reassessment notices for the 1977-1978 tax year, many property owners have filed protests with the local assessment authority.

William A. Badger, Administrator of the Property Tax Assessment Appeal Boards located in each of the Counties and Baltimore City, urged taxpayers to become familiar with the time limits involved in the appeal process. Under State law, property owners who are dissatisfied with an assessment enjoy the right of hearings before the local Supervisor of Assessments, the Property Tax Assessment Appeal Boards, the Maryland Tax Court, as well as the regular Courts of Law. "The

important thing", Badger explained, "is to understand that the law imposes specific time limits for the filing of appeals and failure to file within the allowed period will cause the proposed assessment to become final."

Every taxpayer is entitled to protest his proposed tax assessment by checking a box on a detachable section of the reassessment notice and returning it to the local assessment office within thirty days. The assessment office will then schedule a meeting to review the assessor's "worksheet" that contains information on the taxpayer's property and is used in computing the market value. Property owners are entitled to a copy of the "worksheet". Mr. Badger said that "while attendance at this meeting is not mandatory, it is desirable since it permits the property owner to bring to the attention of the Assessor matters which were perhaps not previously known or other factors which should be considered in reflecting a lower market value".

Property owners who have received a "Final Notice of Assessment" following a protest to the local Supervisor of Assessments have thirty days in which to appeal to the Property

Tax Assessment Appeal Board. The Board is an independent agency operating under a peer concept, and is responsible for determining if assessments recommended by the local Supervisor of Assessments are fair and equitable. The three-member Boards are composed of citizens appointed by the Governor and who have been recommended for their positions by the Mayor, in the case of Baltimore City, or the County Commissioners, County Executive or County Council for the other subdivisions. A taxpayer may also appeal an unfavorable decision by the Appeal Board to the Maryland Tax Court provided such appeals occur within thirty days of the Appeal Board decision.

"The Appeal process is a relatively simple one", Badger said, "informal and free of any charges, fees, or requirement for legal representation". The Appeal Board staff is available to assist the property owner in preparing the necessary filing papers, to explain general procedures followed in the appeal process and to review the type of factors which are general material in any consideration by the Appeal Board for an assessment reduction.

### Sabillasville Group Notes Sale Changes

Due to many complications created by the winter weather, the Sabillasville Civic Association decided to postpone their January game night and bake sale until Spring. The affair was formerly planned for Saturday, Jan. 29, at the Parish Hall.

The 1977 officers of the Sabillasville Civic Association were recently installed and included: President, Joseph Coleman; Vice president, Ronald Swope; Secretary, Rosie Gladhill; and Treasurer, Paul Fry.

There will be no meeting of the organization during the month of February. March 13 has been slated as the next meeting, starting at 7:30 p.m., at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Gladhill, Sabillasville.

### Garden Club Holds Meeting

The Silver Fancy Garden Club met on Thursday, Jan. 20, 1977 at 1 p.m. at the Trinity Lutheran Church in Taneytown, with 10 members and 2 guests attending. Mrs. Robert Baumgardner was hostess. Mrs. Kimbrough Hackman assisted her and Mrs. Theodore Fair helped pour. Mrs. John White and Mrs. Vernon Keilholz showed slides of interesting places throughout Maryland.

The February meeting will take place on the 17th at 1 p.m. at the Trinity Lutheran Church. Mrs. Lufrieu will speak on herbs. The Taneytown Homemakers are invited to attend.

## Tax Offices Open to Assist Taxpayers

"Our Maryland income tax offices will be open on Saturday, February 5th from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m., offering assistance to State income taxpayers", State Comptroller Louis L. Goldstein announced today. The offices will accept telephone inquiries, and will be open to assist taxpayers who need forms or assistance in completing their Maryland income tax returns. The addresses and telephone numbers of the eleven offices of the State Income Tax Division are listed on the back of the Maryland income tax packet and in local telephone directories.

"In addition, we will cooperate with the Baltimore District of the Internal Revenue Service to present a special income tax television program on Saturday, February 5th from 4:30 p.m. until 6 p.m. on WMAR-TV, Channel 21 in Baltimore," Mr. Goldstein said. During the program, viewers will be able to telephone the station with specific tax questions. The program will also feature tips on saving time, trouble and money in preparing your 1976 Federal and State income tax

returns. Taxpayers wishing to have their 1976 Maryland income tax returns completed for them free of charge on Saturday, February 5th or during regular weekday business hours, should stop by any office of the Maryland Income Tax Division and bring with them a copy of their completed federal income tax return, all W-2 forms and their correct address and social security number," Comptroller Goldstein said.

### Heating Tips

You're convinced that you are spending more than you think you should to heat and cool your home, right? And you may indeed be right. "Consumer Survival Kit" shows how to make homes more comfortable as well as how to save money and energy Tuesday, February 8 at 9:30 p.m. on stations of the Maryland Center for Public Broadcasting—TV 22, 28, 31, and 67.