

Isle of Kent - 1631

"To Discover, Identify, Restore and Preserve the Heritage of Kent Island"

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE KENT ISLAND HERITAGE SOCIETY, INC. ■ FALL 2009
www.kentislandheritagesociety.com

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Vice President

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Corresponding Secretary

Carole Frederick

Recording Secretary

Peggy Walbert

Treasurer

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Wayne Morris

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Bill Denny III
Florence Dunn
Toni Gibson
John Gibson Jr.
Kerry Lake
Jean Leathery
Lynne Riley-Coleman
Nancy Sadler
Gary Walters
Hal Wilson
Joyce Woodford

President's Message

Fall is a special time on Kent Island, and this year is no exception. The leaves have been especially colorful after our wet summer, and the geese seem to be here in prolific numbers. It is a time of fullness and thanks.

That feeling was certainly evident as we gathered in September at the Kirwan Farm for our annual Fall Heritage Picnic. The grounds looked great, thanks to the efforts of Hal Wilson and the ladies of the Kent Island Garden Club.

Thank you to Carole Frederick and her team of volunteers for arranging the great food and to all the folks who brought their favorite covered dishes. Thanks too to our Kirwan neighbors, "The Little Creek Boys," for their great local music and to Curator Linda Collier for her fascinating tours of the Kirwan Store Museum. It's a great event, and we hope to make it even better next year.

While we're saying thanks, I also want to express our appreciation to all our board members and volunteers for so many successful efforts during this past year — including Kent Island Day, the many open-house tours from May through October, the summer Farmers Market, and the countless

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Nominating Committee's Slate for 2010

An election of officers and directors to lead The Kent Island Heritage Society, Inc., in 2010 will be held at the Annual Meeting on December 12 (see details in box below). The nominating committee, consisting of Dan Hopkins and Butch Collier, recommended the following slate:

President

Jack Broderick

Vice President

Dan Hopkins

Recording Secretary

Kay Roser

Corresponding Secretary

Carole Frederick

Treasurer

Audrey Hawkins

Lynne Riley-Coleman*

Director

Linda Collier

Director

Nancy Cook

Director

Josh Willis

[*Tentative]

Officers are elected for a one-year term; directors serve three-year terms.

Submit additional nominations as soon as possible to Peggy Walbert, Recording Secretary, Kent Island Heritage Society, P.O. Box 321, Stevensville, MD 21666. Include nominees' consent.

Mark Your Calendar

Kent Island Heritage Society Annual Meeting, Election & Silent Auction

5 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 12

Kent Island Yacht Club

See enclosed invitation for details

DOCENTS

•Audrey Hawkins •Joyce Woodward •Joanne Anderson •Myrtle Bruscup •Francis & Linda Collier •Nancy Cook •Dick & Eileen Dadds •Bill & Janet Denny •Gil & Florence Dunn •Carole Frederick •Jay & Toni Gibson •Chris Kilian •Kerry & Lora Lake •David & Jean Leathery •Geo. & Barbara Marmion •Fran Peters •Louise Price •Flora Sossi •Joan Stoer •Fran Taylor •Hanna Wall

KENT ISLAND DAY

•Joyce Woodward •Toni Gibson •Gary Walters

KIRWAN PROPERTY

•Joel Berger •Bill Denny •Dan Hopkins •Wayne Morris •Hal Wilson

KIRWAN INTERIOR

•Midge Kirwan •Myrtle Bruscup •Jane Sparks •Emma Thomas

KIRWAN STORE MUSEUM

•Linda Collier, Curator •Lora Lake, Curator

CRAY HOUSE

•Bill Denny

STEVENSVILLE P.O.

•Francis Collier

TRAIN DEPOT

•Florence & Gil Dunn

CABOOSE RESTORATION

•Nancy Cook •Richard Dadds •"T" & Wayne Humphries •Tom Willey

STEVENSVILLE BANK

•Bill Denny •Jay Gibson

ORAL HISTORIES

•Brent Lewis

MEMBERSHIP

•Mae Hutchison

LIBRARY FILES

•Myrtle Bruscup •Mary White

AUDIT

•Lynn Riley-Coleman

•Jane Sparks

QAC HISTORIC SITES

•Nancy Cook, Coordinator

DEVELOPMENT

•Kerry Lake •Hal Wilson

CEMETERY ID & PRESERVATION

•Lora Lake

FARMERS MARKET

•Laura Keene

WEBSITE

•Carole Frederick

•John Bonner

PUBLIC RELATIONS

•John Bonner, Editor

President's Message

Continued from page 1

projects (both planned and unplanned) — to keep all of our special historic locations in the best possible condition.

As I mentioned in our last newsletter, the challenge of maintaining our historic sites is constant. It has become quite evident that several of our historic buildings "need more fixin' up" than we have money to "fix 'em up with." We plan to meet that challenge early this coming year as we focus the board's efforts on improving our financial situation. We'll consider new fundraising events and activities, grants, and direct appeals. The creative ideas and support of our members will be critical.

We cap off our year with our annual holiday dinner at the Kent Island Yacht Club. We will hold our annual elections and installation of officers, and present special awards to our outgoing board members — Myrtle Bruscup, Florence Dunn and Kerry Lake, directors; Wayne Morris, treasurer; and Peg Walbert, secretary — and welcome our new members.

This year will also see the return of our popular silent auction, featuring some special antique items. We hope you will plan to join us.

Jack Broderick

* * WANTED * *

Folding Banquet Tables & chairs

KIHS has been renting tables and chairs for our annual picnic at Kirwan Farm at considerable expense. Anyone who has these items that they can donate — or even for long-term loan so they can get them back if needed — will be greatly appreciated. Please contact Jack Broderick at 410-643-6452 or jackandlizzie@atlanticbb.net to arrange pickup.

Victorian Style Towel Rack

Free Standing. For Kirwan House. Call Linda Collins at 410-643-2731 or lsc@atlanticbb.net.

Donations are tax deductible

OUR LITTLE RED CABOOSE

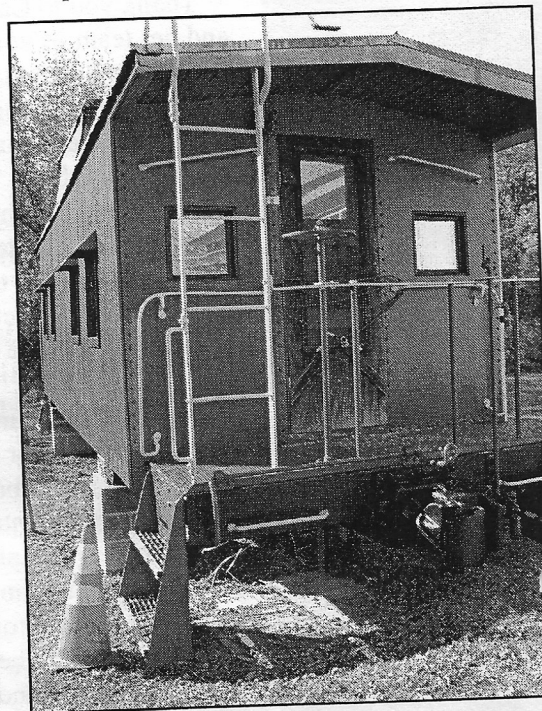
By Nancy Cook

Have you visited the historic sites in Stevensville this spring or fall? If you have, you will see a bright red caboose in the process of restoration. What fantastic carpentry skills and a close adherence to historical accuracy has occurred thus far under the capable hands of Tom D. Willey Jr. and his dedicated crew of Larry Griebel, John Drummer and Dale Lantz.

This past summer, sometimes in the hottest of days, the exterior boards, which had been precut according to 1926 caboose standards, were nailed in place and then painted. The windows were also precut and painted in Mr. Willey's shop and then nailed in place.

Our deadline for finishing the cupola and the inside is May 15 in time for Kent Island Day. Much credit must be given to the original Caboosters, Wayne and T. Humphries, Richard Dadds, Mark Zepp, Melvin Clark, Bill Denny and Mel Bolin, who helped in the removal of the rotten wood and replaced much stud work on one side of the train so that the present carpentry could be completed.

What a wonderful legacy for our young people as they visit an important part of our transportation past.



ANNUAL MEETING

Sneak Preview of Items for Silent Auction

The ever-popular silent auction is being brought back to our annual meeting this year. Local merchants have already demonstrated exceptional willingness to support the work of our Society with their generous donations. Here are some early examples:



v0009b088 fotosearch.com

❖ *\$100, \$75, \$50 Gift Certificates from TNT Jewelers*

❖ *\$50 Gift Certificate from LaFontana Ristorante Italiana*

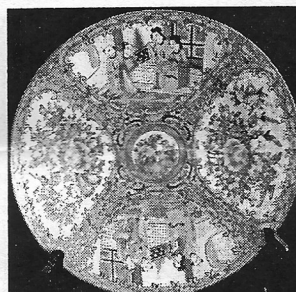
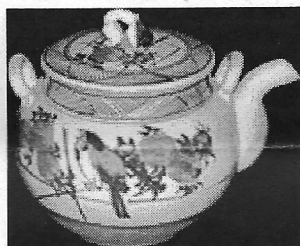
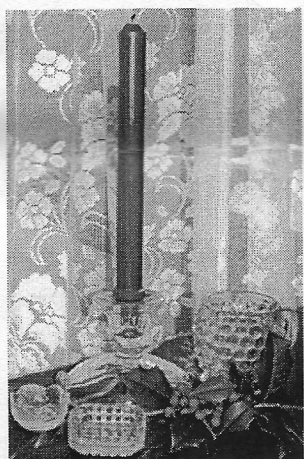
❖ *\$80 Gift Certificate from Hardee's*

❖ *\$25 Gift Certificate from Cracker Barrel*

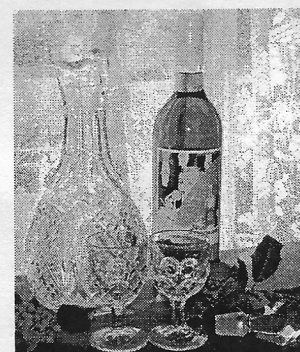
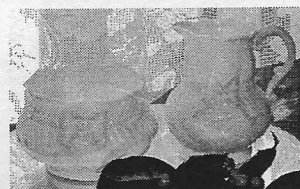
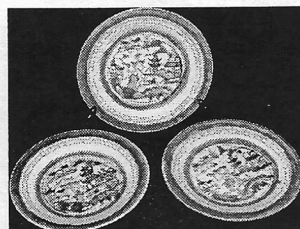
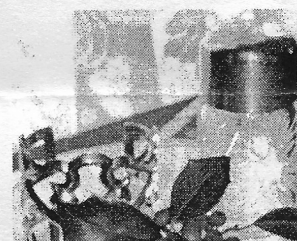
❖ *\$10 Gift Certificate from Pizza Hut*

❖ *Bottle of Sangria from Jinx's Liquors*

❖ *Exquisite antique crystal and porcelain china including Belleek, Rose Medallion and Chinese Canton export porcelain from the collection at Kirwan House*

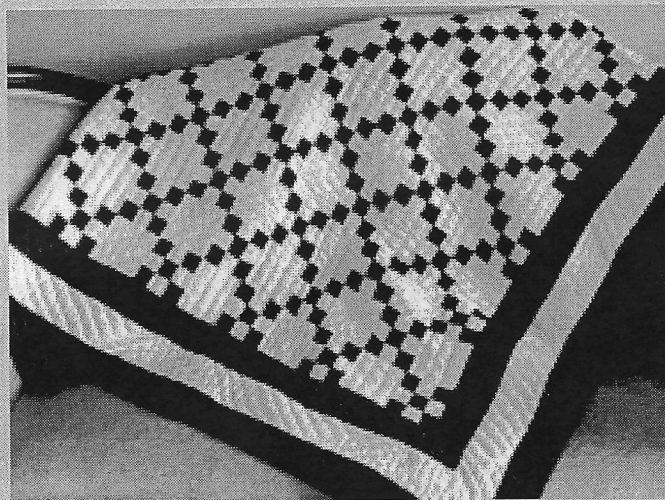


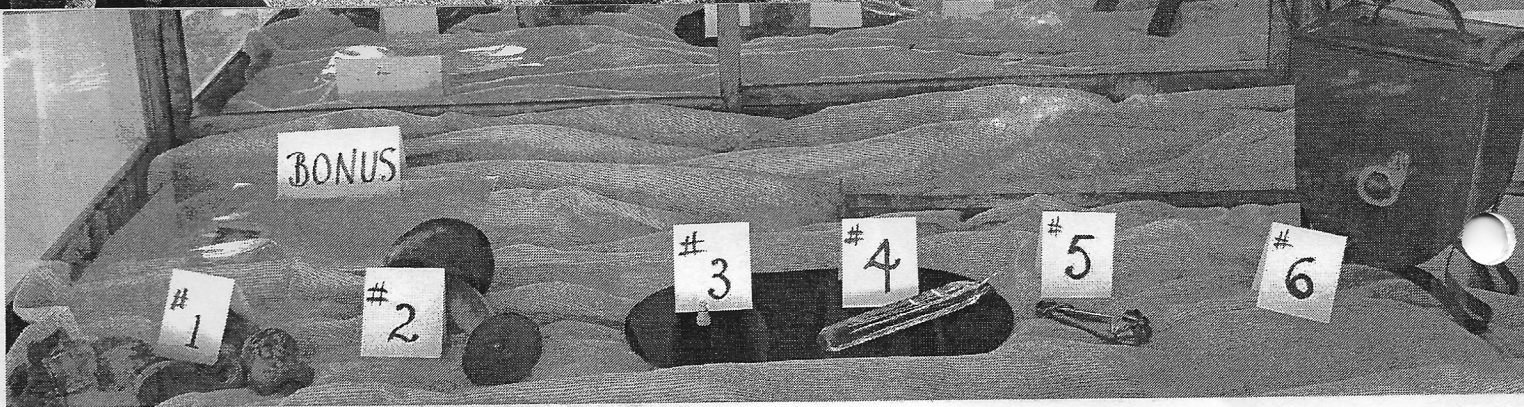
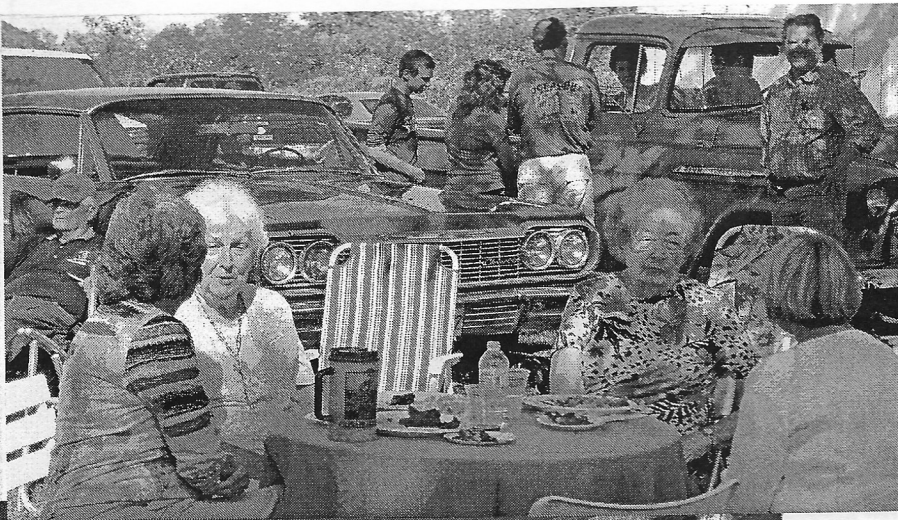
❖ *And much more...*

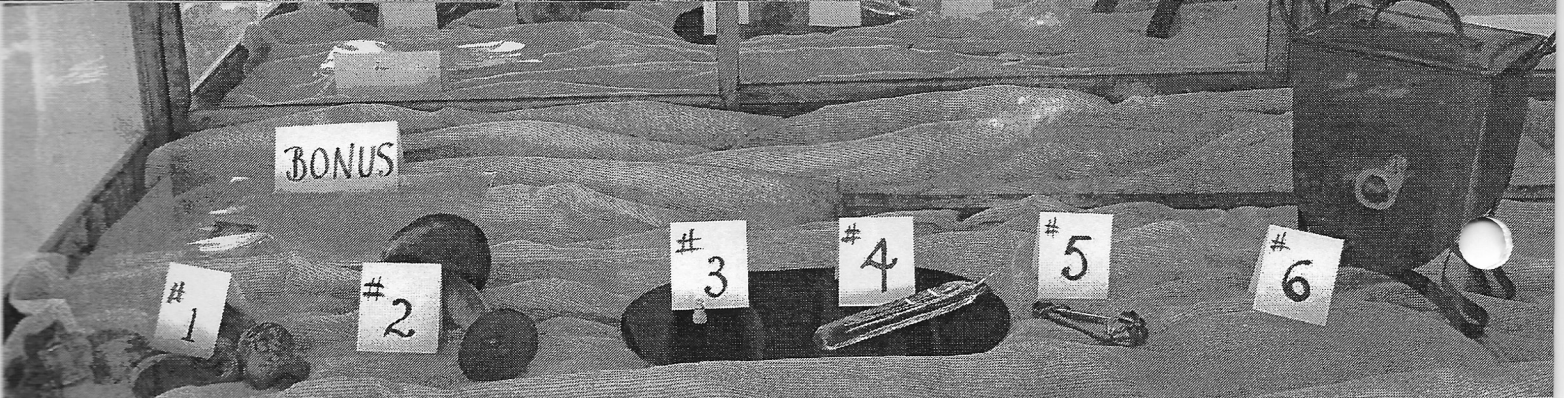
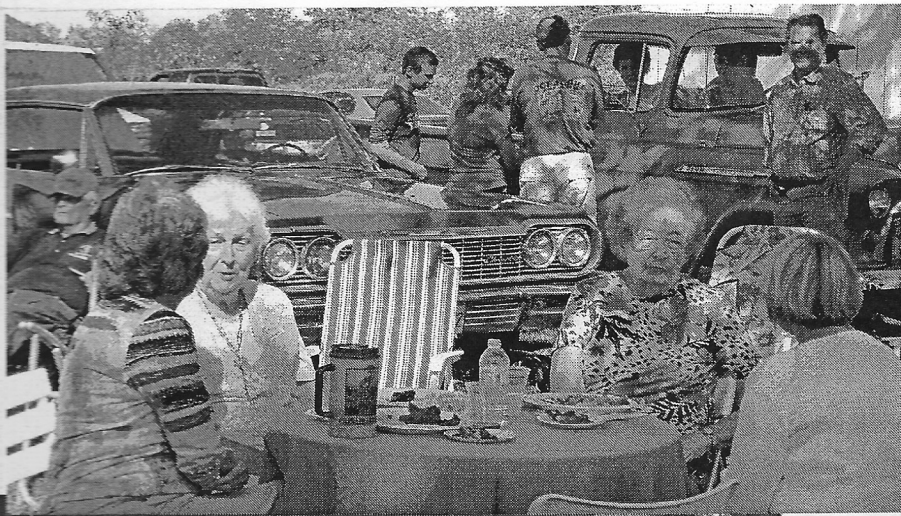


* A VERY SPECIAL ITEM * FOR A DRAWING

A spectacular, never-used, entirely hand-stitched, red and white antique quilt from Katherine Kirwan's personal collection. Approx. 7x7 feet. Winner to be announced at Kent Island Day in May.







KIRWAN FARM PICNIC

A new feature of this years picnic was a contest to identify items from Kirwan's past. Curator Linda Collier assembled an eclectic assortment of items from Kirwan Store Museum, house and shed, as well as from her own private collection, all diabolically selected to stump our guests.

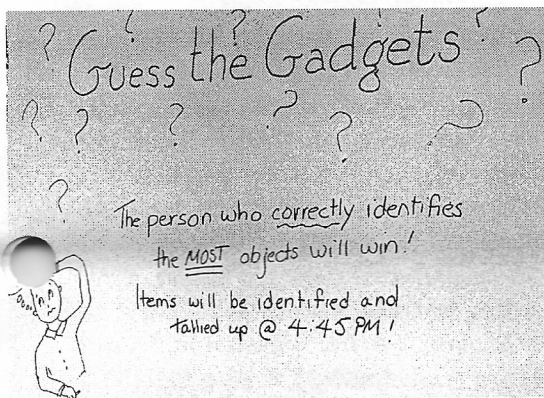
"Age provided a competitive advantage," explains Linda. "There was a great deal of interest, We may do this again next year. With different items, of course."

Winners were:

First Place Clara Davidson

Second Place Dot Wagner*

(*Dot Wagner is the great granddaughter of Sen. James Kirwan.)



Contest Items

1. **Corn huskers (2)**
Worn on hand for husking corn.
2. **Hog scraper**
A final close shave for butchered hogs.
3. **Stanhope peep**
A small scope named for its inventor used for viewing miniature photos especially of inspirational biblical but often risque photos. Often sold to tourists as souvenirs.
4. **Tear Collector**
Used by mourners to collect their tears and show love for the deceased. Sometimes used by paid mourners. Ones with the most tears got the most money.
5. **Skirt lifter**
Clipped to a Victorian lady's skirt for lifting it as she goes up steps or through mud.
6. **Cream whipper**
Held on knee and cranked to produce whipped cream.
7. **Glove hook**
For drawing small buttons through buttonholes.
8. **Pastry jaggging tool**
For cutting curvy lines in pastry for lattice topped pies etc.

9. Bone dish

Set beside dinner plate for fish, chicken bones and such.

10. Bridle rosette

Attached to horse bridles, generally decorated with initials or flower.

11. Soap saver

Holds unusable bits soap for swishing through bath or dishwater.

12. Traveler wheel

Blacksmith tool for measuring wagon wheels and barrels for iron rims and hoops.

Bonus Points

1. Tobacco silk

Advertising premiums that came with tobacco products. Sample is flag of Turkey that came in pack of cigarettes.

2. Board foot measurer

Tells how many board feet are in a stack of lumber.

Items 1 and 2 were donated by Dr. Michael Pelezar, recently deceased. Item 4 is from Linda Collier's mourning collection.



New Butterfly Garden at Kirwan Farm

By Hal Wilson

***I** t was a dark and stormy night ...*

Okay, so it wasn't a dark and stormy night, but it was certainly a dark and stormy Thursday morning on October 15, when five members of the Kent Island Garden Club showed up at the Kirwan House to spread wet newspapers and then mulch for the new butterfly garden. Eight yards of mulch donated by Cliff Lowe at Lowe's Nursery were graciously hauled to the garden site by Claude Lowery Jr. in his truck more used to carrying produce than wet, soggy mulch.

As he loaded Claude's truck in the driving rain Cliff Lowe commented that those Garden Club ladies must be some kind of tough to work mulch in this kind of weather. Well, they are. They're admirably tough, dependable, and committed.

Their commitment and dependability extended to a planting day which was set for a non-rainy Friday the following week. When the club members arrived more than 68

butterfly attracting plants acquired with a generous discount from An Eastridge Garden and several soledago plants donated by Garden Club member Denise Swayne were ready to be placed and planted. With spades, shovels, and hand trowels the ladies spread across the new-sewn mulch like a swarm of bees and in little more than an hour gathered over coffee and brownies to admire their handiwork. All admitted to a job well done and commented on how beautiful the new butterfly garden would look in the spring.

The garden has now been ditched to hold the mulch and all that remains is to procure two benches to be placed in front of the adjacent holly tree. Two cement benches have been identified, and if you would consider donating one or both of them to



memorialize a friend or loved one please contact Hal Wilson at 410-643-4821 for details.

Pictured above from the left are Hal Wilson and Kent Island Garden Club members Linda Elias, Diana Bonner, Denise Swayne, Linda Armiger, Irene Fares, Keith Wickman, Phyllis Wilson and Tren Ward (substituting for wife Priscilla). Sally Boden was also there the previous week to spread mulch.

Welcome New Members

Leslie Giambalvo
Stevensville, Md.

Vince J. Guido
Queenstown, Md.

Marilouise "ML" Dodge
Stevensville, Md.

Kay Roser
Stevensville, Md.

Isle of Kent

John Bonner, Editor

Isle of Kent is published quarterly by The Kent Island Heritage Society, Inc., a nonprofit corporation chartered by the State of Maryland, P.O. Box 321, Stevensville, MD 21666. Every effort is made to assure the accuracy of published information, but no responsibility is assumed by The Kent Island Heritage Society Inc. or the editor in the event of claim of loss or damage from any article. Statements attributed to individuals do not necessarily reflect official policy of the KIHS. Send correspondence regarding newsletter to Editor, 324 Columbia Lane, Stevensville, MD 21666. Email: jlbonner@verizon.net

...Once Told Me...

By Brent Lewis

In 2010 it will be 85 years since Dr. Theodor Sattelmaier came to Kent Island. Sattelmaier grew up in Schluchtern, Germany and as a teenage soldier in World War II witnessed indescribable death and destruction.

Afterwards, he was determined to dedicate his future to saving lives. He studied medicine at prestigious European universities and upon graduation set his sights on America.

Soon after arrival, he placed an advertisement in *The Baltimore Sun* seeking a place to practice. The ad was answered by three doctors, including Kent Island's John Benton.

Sattelmaier came to the island aboard the steamboat *Philadelphia*, more fondly known as *Smokey Joe*, and never left. 'Doc' Sattelmaier was a transplant beloved by his adopted hometown. He had a thick German accent and was a man of character in every sense of the word. He died in 1987.

All that got me thinking...

Nick Hoxter once told me, "Doctor Sattelmaier came from Heidelberg and married Dr. Benton's daughter Liz."

Bill Denny once told me, "When I was born I was delivered by Dr. Sattelmaier. My dad saw Dr. Snyder, but my mother and I went to Doc. He was rough. He'd sew you up and give you nothing for the pain. He'd always say in that accent, 'Vat are you crying for?' And I'd say 'Because it hurts.' He'd answer, 'Vell, it doesn't hut me. Shtop yelling so loud.' He'd sew you up like a piece of linen cloth. There was nothing ever gentle about him."

One time he had to come up and see me in the apartment over the garage. I was four or five years old. I had pneumonia. I heard him coming up the steps. When he came around the corner into the bedroom, I flung my teddy bear at him as hard as I could. He smiled and said, "Ah, you don't

like me do you?"

Babe Grollman once told me, "Where No Place is, I used to go down there to shoot pool and bowl. They sold beer but I was too young, never liked it much anyway. I'd bowl with Doc Sattelmaier. If I beat him he'd get mad. Throw his balls halfway down the alley, about knock the end of the building out. I was just old enough to even be in there."

Kenny Bullen once told me, "He was older by the time I came along, but he still made house calls. When I was a kid, you couldn't play sick from school because he'd come to your house. He was rough. You'd go in there, in his office, and he'd be working on you, making you cry and he'd say, 'Shut up, boy. It don't hurt.' But I believed in him. If he told you were going to die, you'd better pack your suitcase."

Jody Schulz once told me, "Bobby Timms [Jr.] was his next door neighbor. He said he used to come over to their house with a needle and chase them around the yard to give them their shots."

Jimmy Ewing once told me, "The Circle [Restaurant] wasn't always a success. I spent many sleepless nights, and more than once decided to close the place and go to work for somebody else. One man changed my mind for me, and I've been grateful to him ever since. Dr. Sattelmaier stopped by one day for a sandwich. I told him some of my troubles. He listened until I had finished pouring out my heart and then in his familiar accented English said 'Stick it out Jimmy. It won't always be this bad. Tomorrow is going to be better, you'll see.' Though I still had my doubts, something about his encouraging and sincere remarks stuck with me. And from then on things kept getting better and better. I'll always be glad for the day old Doc stopped by

and gave a worried man a much needed shot in the arm. He taught me not to worry. 'Worry,' Doc Sattelmaier said, 'is a bad disease.'

Curty Chance once told me, "We were blessed to have him."

That's what those Islanders once told me.

The Vasser Wheel

By Gil Dunn

In the summertime some 80 years ago, I would visit friends whose property was on the shore of the Bird River in Eastern Baltimore County. It was an enjoyable trip with lots of fun for all.

The river-front property was owned by a small group of German immigrants. The wife of one of the owners did not like spending the week there, but her husband did. He spent most of the week making interesting gadgets that the visitors would enjoy.

One of the gadgets he came up with was what he called a water wheel. In his broken English accent, he called his invention the Vasser Vheel. For the past 80 years, I have referred to it as the Vasser Vheel.

The Vasser Vheel could carry eight people, including the two that operated the see-saw. The see-saw was attached to a wheel and the wheel was attached to water paddles on each side of the boat. The faster that the see-saw went up and down, the faster the water moved through the paddles and hence the faster the rig moved down the river.

It was fun riding around the Bird River on the Vasser Vheel observing other sights on the river. Today, 80 years later, it is unlikely to see someone riding the Vasser Vheel. Though it may be gone, it stills bring back pleasant memories.

The Kent Island Heritage Society, Inc.

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Holiday Gift Suggestions

Gifts that keep on giving, that remind those you care most about of our treasured shared heritage



Membership in The Kent Island Heritage Society

Free all-you-can-eat picnic included at no extra cost. Only \$15 for a single membership; \$25 for an entire family. And tax deductible to boot. You can't beat that deal with a stick.



Bring a friend to the Annual Meeting

Good food, great fellowship, silent auction, door prizes. Only \$40. See enclosed Invitation and registration card. If you include a membership (see above) they'll be allowed to vote.



A copy of Brent Lewis's brilliant new book: *Remembering Kent Island*

125 pages of fascinating text and old photos, some never previously published. Even native Kent Islanders will learn something they didn't know about our treasured island. Only \$21.99.



Kent Island Pottery, Books, Maps, Prints

Mugs, bowls and vases are works of art, hand thrown on a potters wheel, decorated, incised, glazed and fired by Cheers, formerly of Historic Stevensville. Choose from a variety of styles and colors. Duck prints and old maps are worthy of framing and prominently displaying.

* Merchandise plus sales tax and mailing costs. Call Audrey Hawkins at 410-643-5969.